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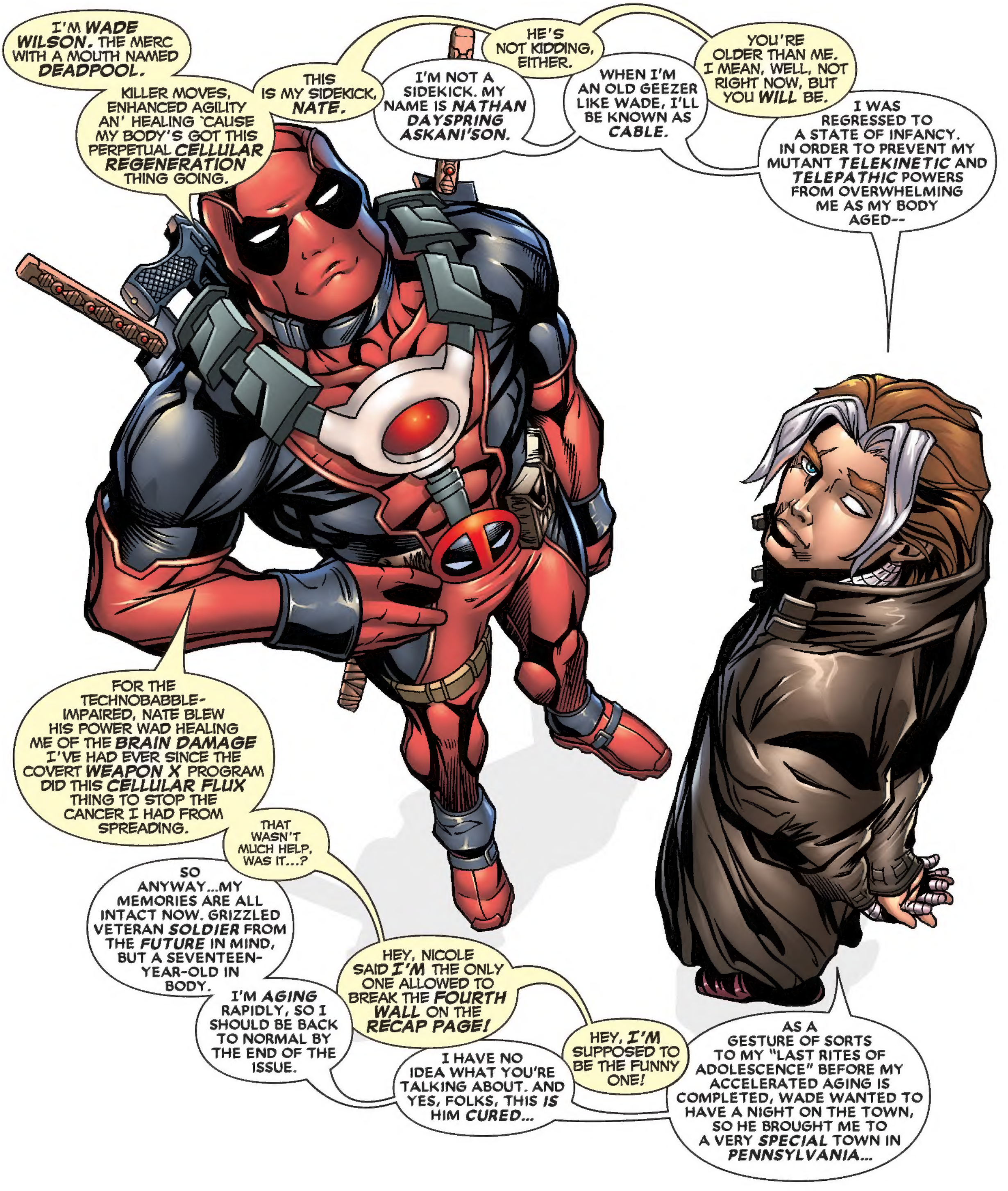
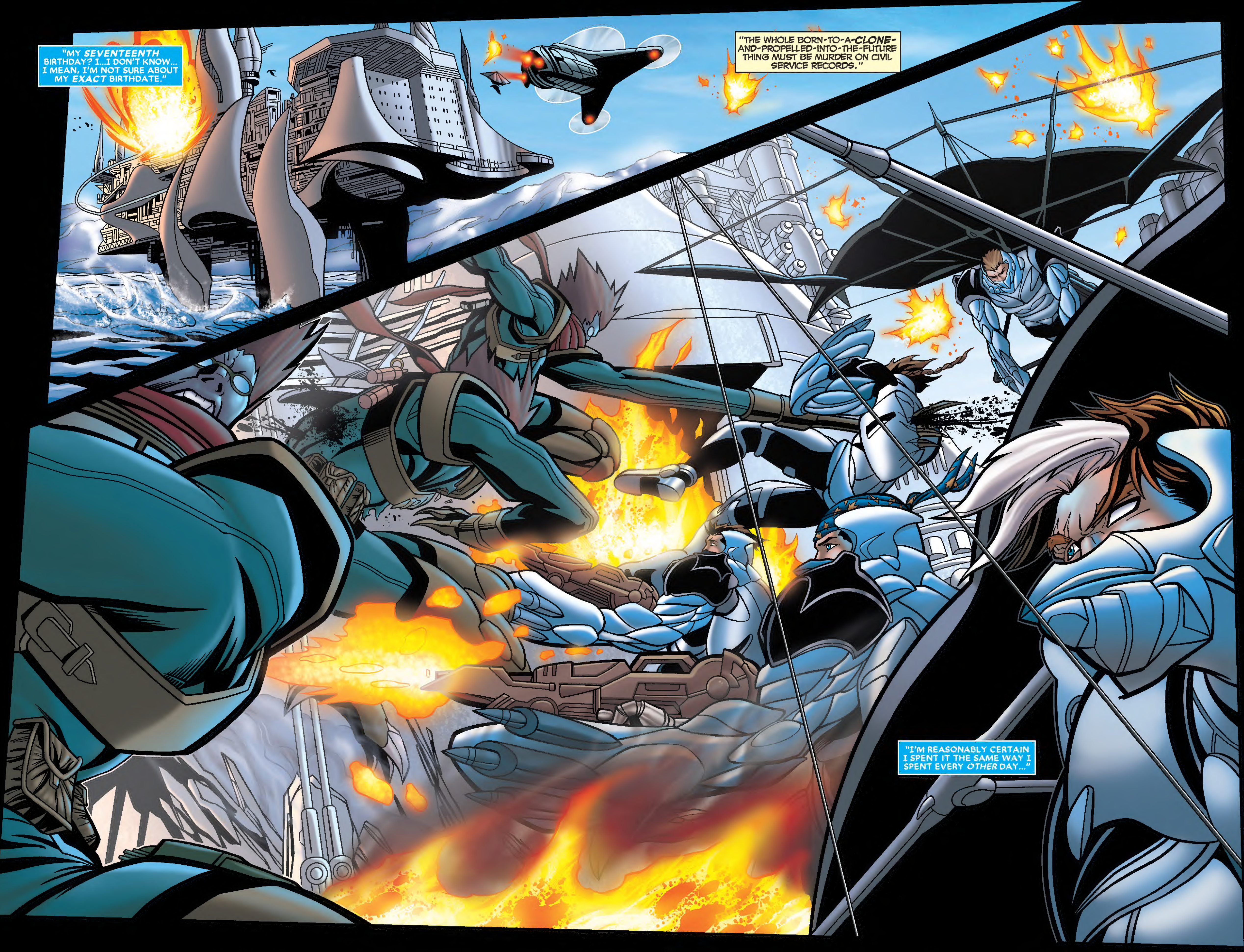
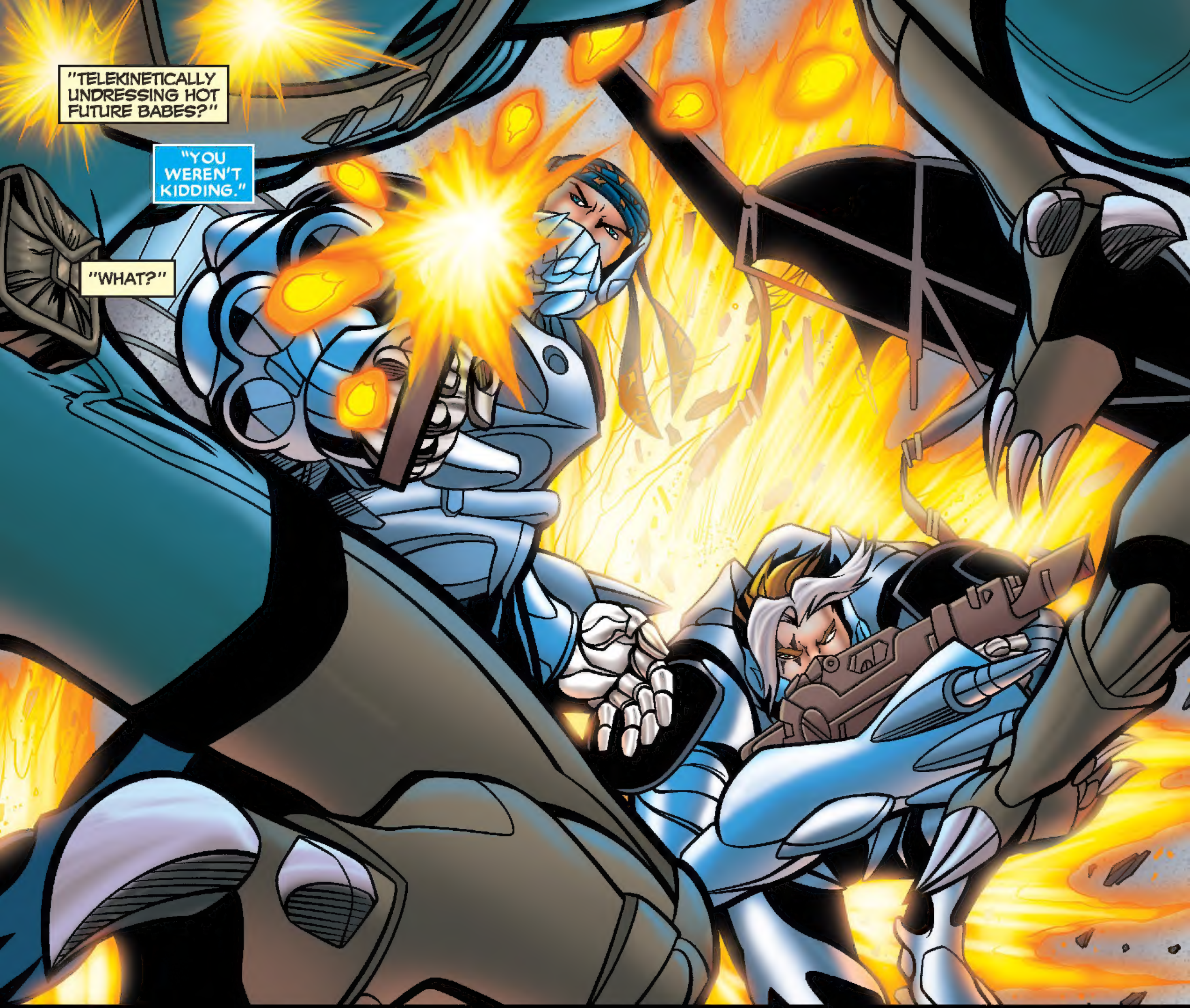
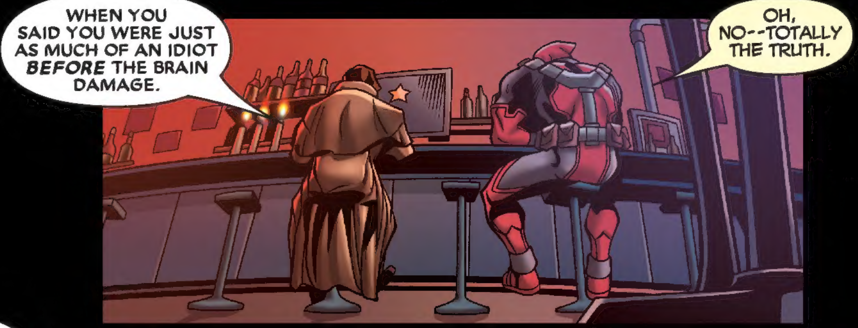
"WHY, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE..."

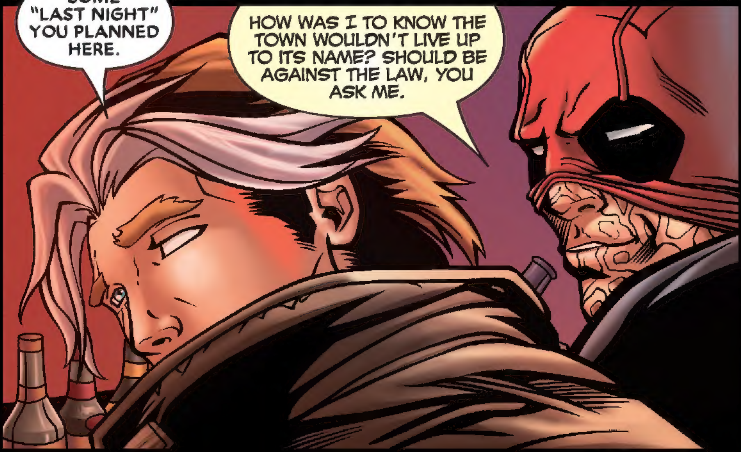
ENEMA OF THE STATE EPILOGUE / BOSOM BUDDIES PROLOGUE

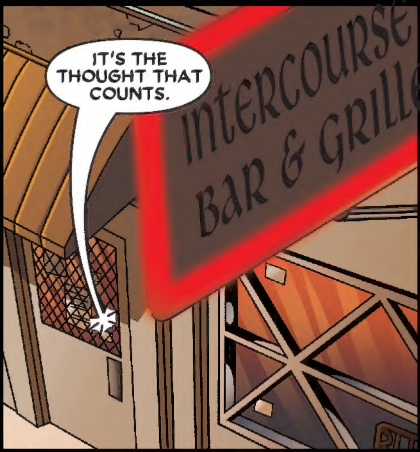

I'M **WADE WILSON.** THE MERC WITH A MOUTH NAMED **DEADPOOL.**
KILLER MOVES, ENHANCED AGILITY AN' HEALING 'CAUSE MY BODY'S GOT THIS PERPETUAL **CELLULAR REGENERATION** THING GOING.
THIS IS MY SIDEKICK, **NATE.**
I'M NOT A SIDEKICK. MY NAME IS **NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON.**
HE'S NOT KIDDING, EITHER.
WHEN I'M AN OLD GEEZER LIKE WADE, I'LL BE KNOWN AS **CABLE.**
YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME. I MEAN, WELL, NOT RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU **WILL** BE.
I WAS REGRESSED TO A STATE OF INFANCY. IN ORDER TO PREVENT MY MUTANT **TELEKINETIC** AND **TELEPATHIC** POWERS FROM OVERWHELMING ME AS MY BODY AGED--
FOR THE TECHNOBABBLE-IMPAIRED, NATE BLEW HIS POWER WAD HEALING ME OF THE **BRAIN DAMAGE** I'VE HAD EVER SINCE THE COVERT **WEAPON X** PROGRAM DID THIS **CELLULAR FLUX** THING TO STOP THE CANCER I HAD FROM SPREADING.
THAT WASN'T MUCH HELP, WAS IT...?
SO ANYWAY...MY MEMORIES ARE ALL INTACT NOW. GRIZZLED VETERAN **SOLDIER** FROM THE **FUTURE** IN MIND, BUT A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD IN BODY.
HEY, NICOLE SAID **I'M** THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO BREAK THE **FOURTH WALL** ON THE **RECAP PAGE!**
I'M **AGING** RAPIDLY, SO I SHOULD BE BACK TO NORMAL BY THE END OF THE ISSUE.
HEY, **I'M** SUPPOSED TO BE THE FUNNY ONE!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. AND YES, FOLKS, THIS **IS** HIM **CURED...**
AS A GESTURE OF SORTS TO MY "LAST RITES OF ADOLESCENCE" BEFORE MY ACCELERATED AGING IS COMPLETED, WADE WANTED TO HAVE A NIGHT ON THE TOWN, SO HE BROUGHT ME TO A VERY **SPECIAL** TOWN IN **PENNSYLVANIA...**

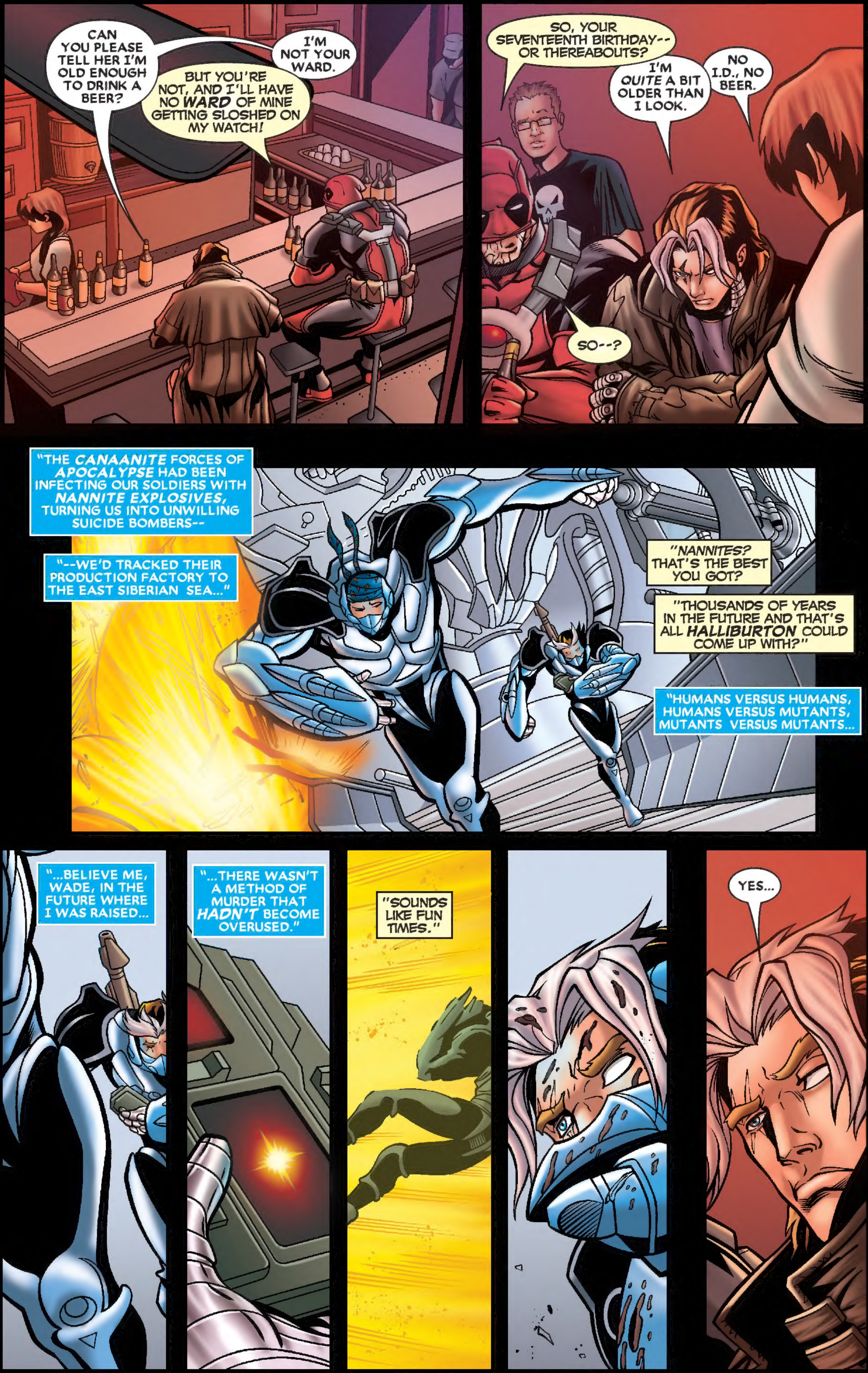

"MY *SEVENTEENTH* BIRTHDAY? I...I DON'T KNOW... I MEAN, I'M NOT SURE ABOUT MY *EXACT* BIRTHDATE."
"THE WHOLE BORN-TO-A-*CLONE*-AND-PROPELLED-INTO-THE-FUTURE THING MUST BE MURDER ON CIVIL SERVICE RECORDS."
"I'M REASONABLY CERTAIN I SPENT IT THE SAME WAY I SPENT EVERY *OTHER* DAY..."

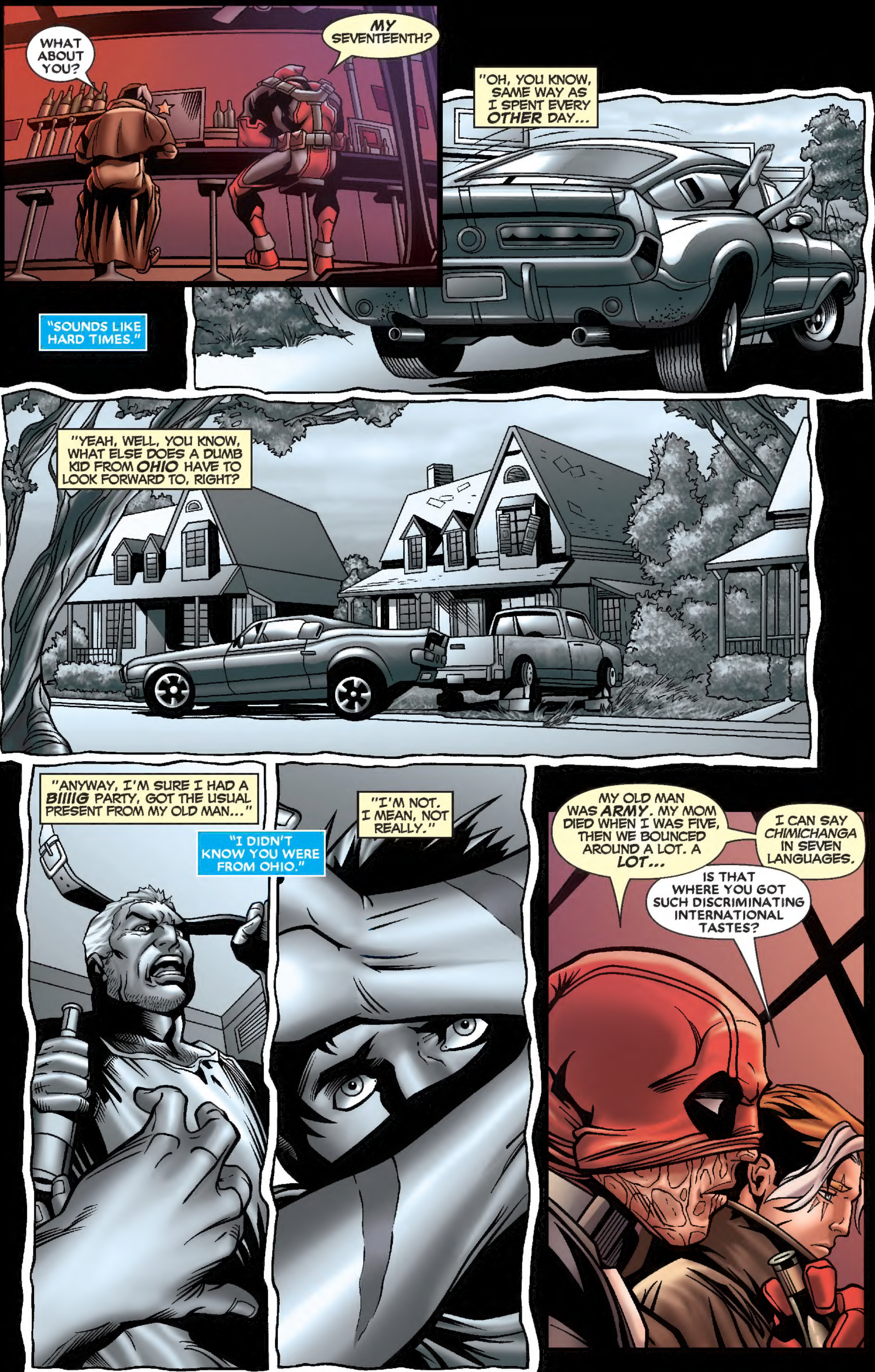

"TELEKINETICALLY UNDRESSING HOT FUTURE BABES?"
"YOU WEREN'T KIDDING."
"WHAT?"

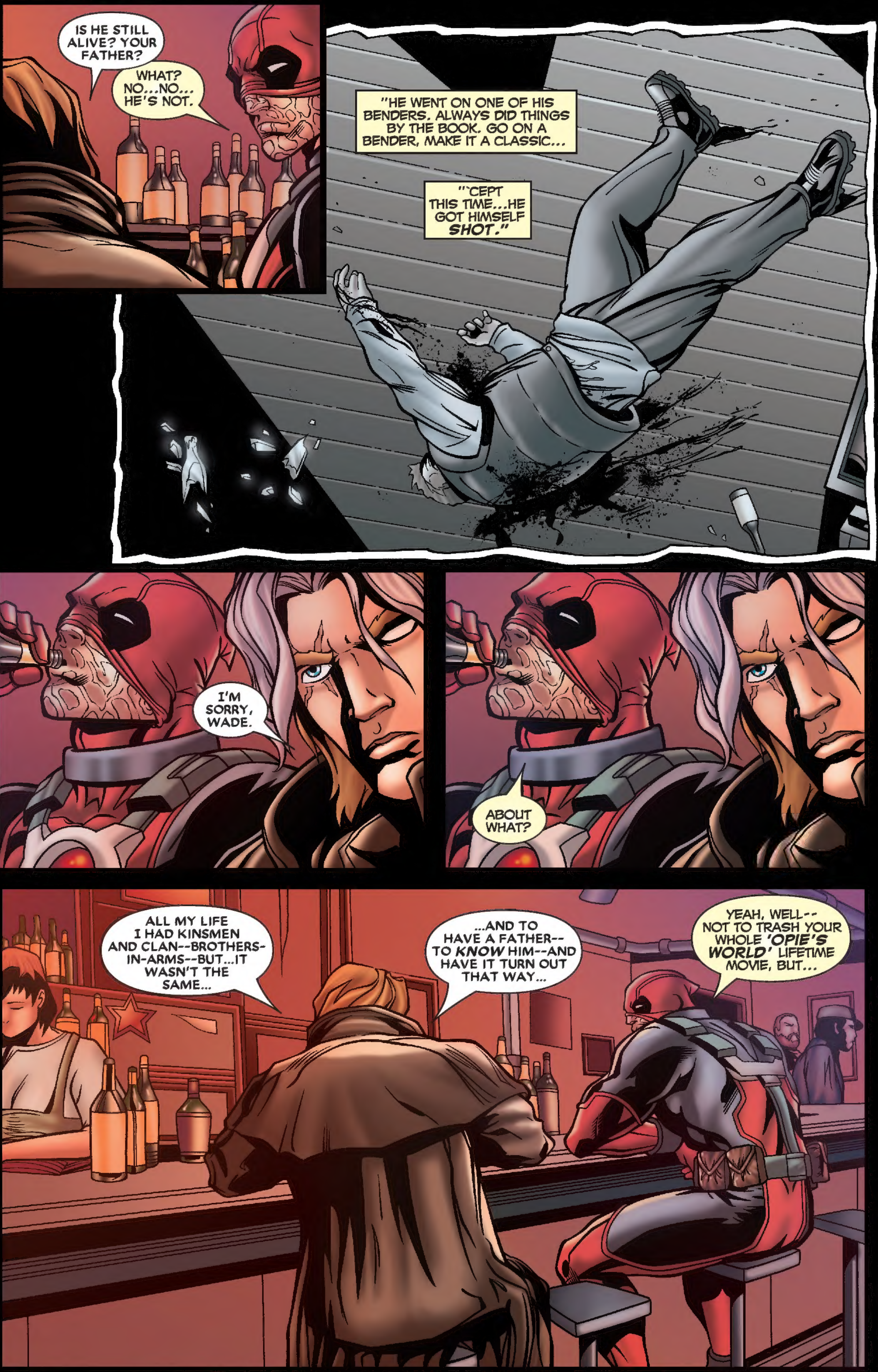

WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE JUST AS MUCH OF AN IDIOT *BEFORE* THE BRAIN DAMAGE.
OH, NO--TOTALLY THE TRUTH.

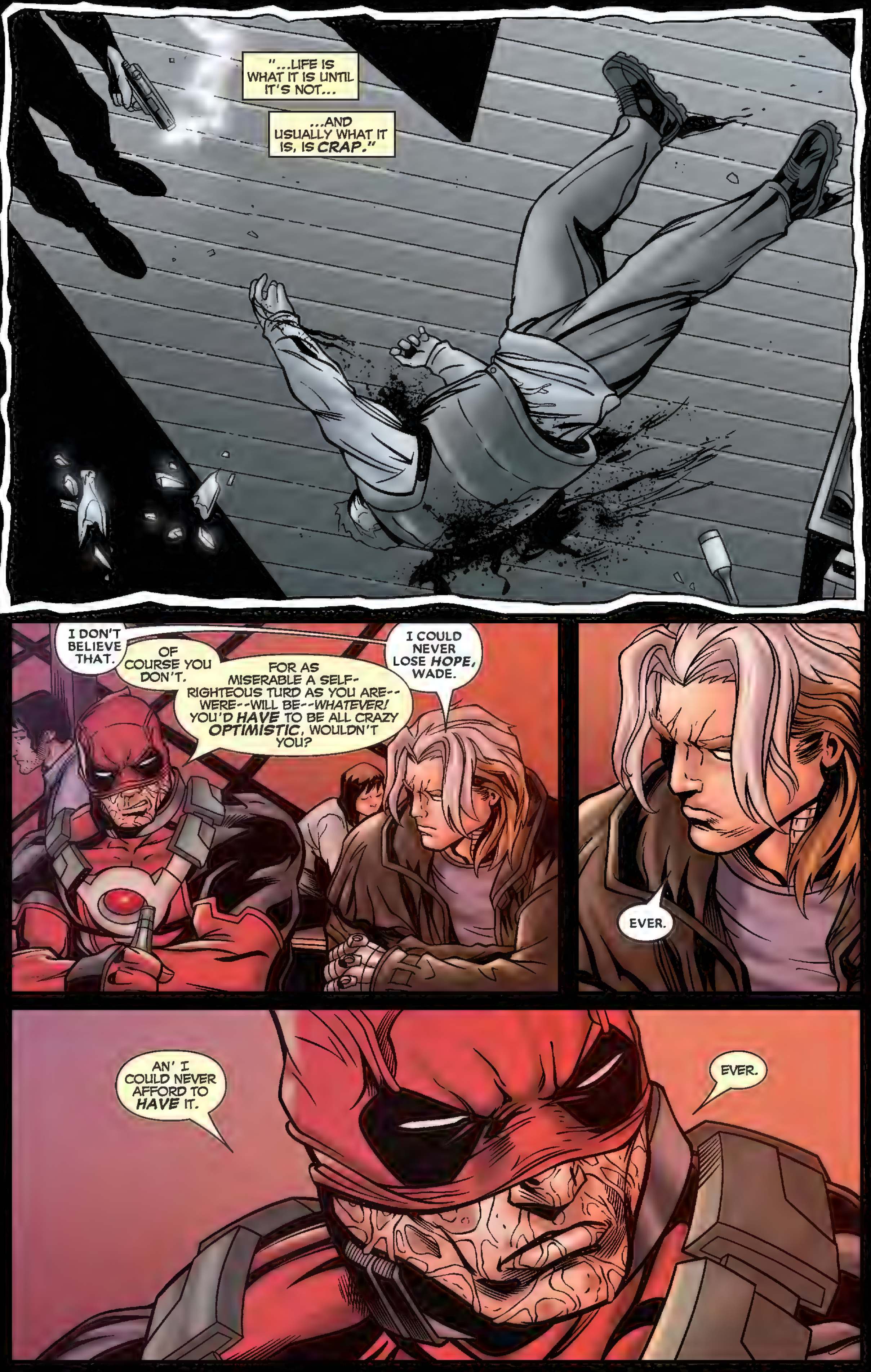

SOME "LAST NIGHT" YOU PLANNED HERE.
HOW WAS I TO KNOW THE TOWN WOULDN'T LIVE UP TO ITS NAME? SHOULD BE AGAINST THE LAW, YOU ASK ME.

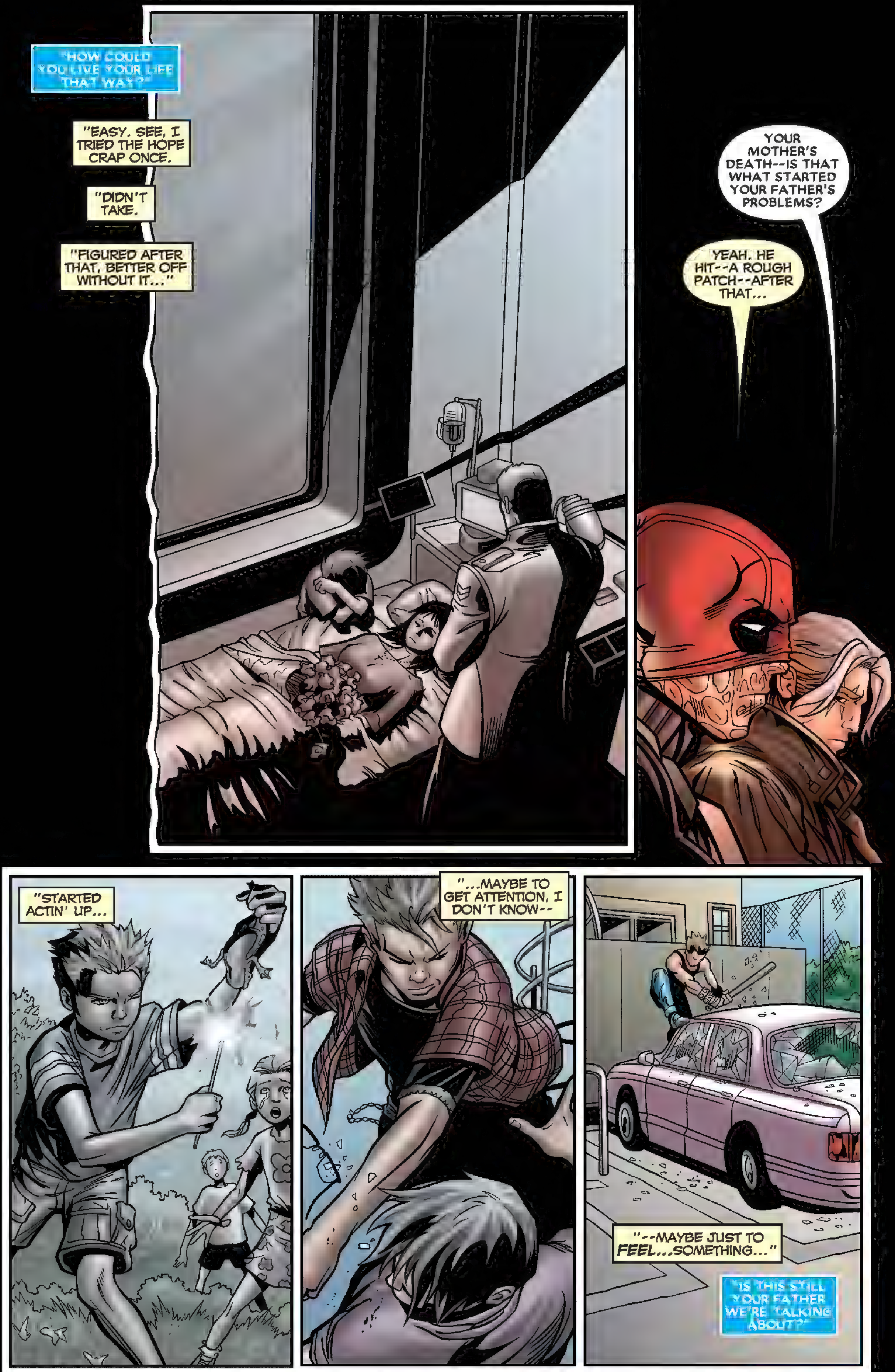

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.
Intercourse Bar & Grille

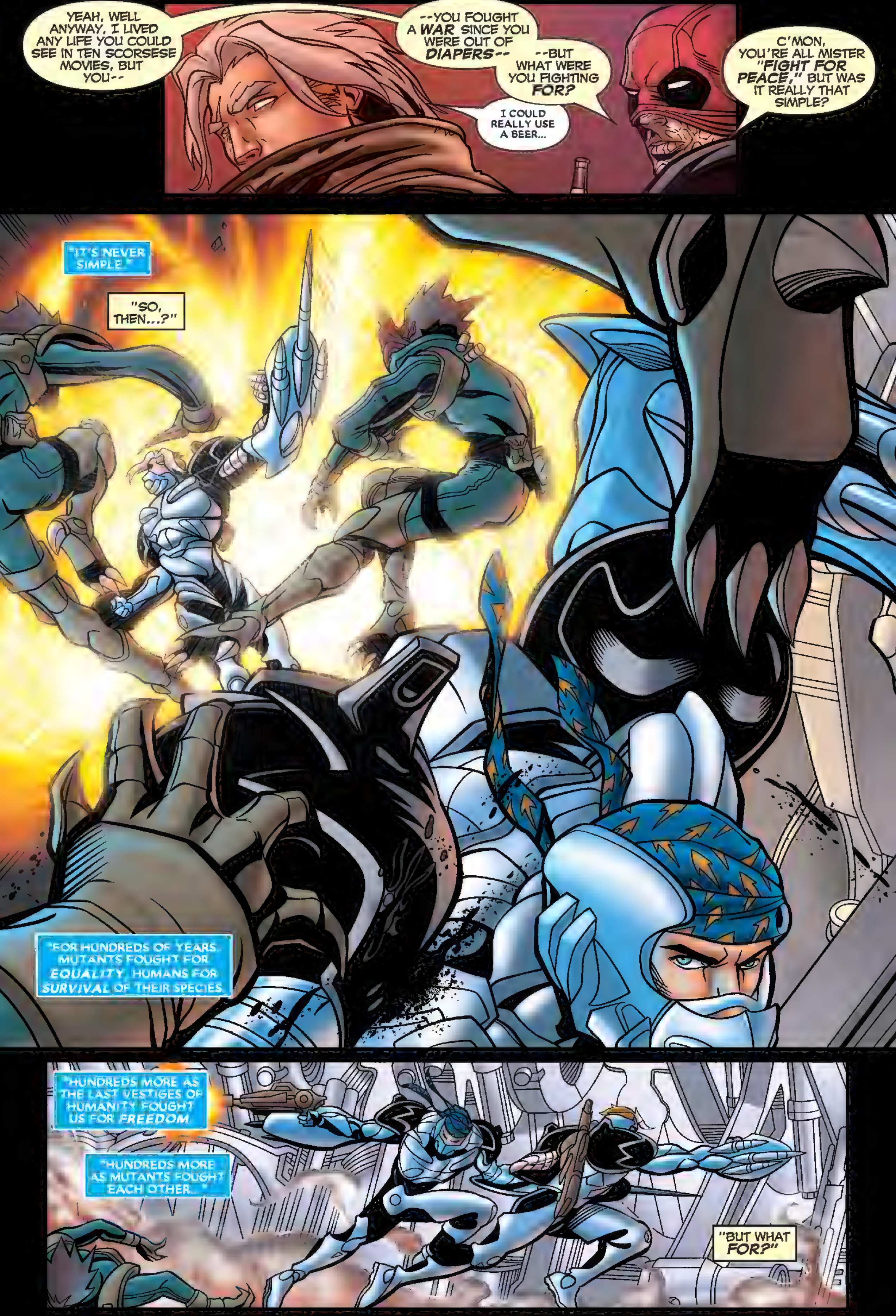

CAN YOU PLEASE TELL HER I'M OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK A BEER?
I'M NOT YOUR WARD.
BUT YOU'RE NOT, AND I'LL HAVE NO *WARD* OF MINE GETTING SLOSHED ON MY WATCH!
SO, YOUR SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY-- OR THEREABOUTS?
I'M *QUITE* A BIT OLDER THAN I LOOK.
NO I.D., NO BEER.
SO--?
"THE *CANAANITE* FORCES OF *APOCALYPSE* HAD BEEN INFECTING OUR SOLDIERS WITH *NANNITE EXPLOSIVES,* TURNING US INTO UNWILLING SUICIDE BOMBERS--
"--WE'D TRACKED THEIR PRODUCTION FACTORY TO THE EAST SIBERIAN SEA..."
"NANNITES? THAT'S THE BEST YOU GOT?
"THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE AND THAT'S ALL *HALLIBURTON* COULD COME UP WITH?"
"HUMANS VERSUS HUMANS, HUMANS VERSUS MUTANTS, MUTANTS VERSUS MUTANTS...
"...BELIEVE ME, WADE, IN THE FUTURE WHERE I WAS RAISED...
"...THERE WASN'T A METHOD OF MURDER THAT *HADN'T* BECOME OVERUSED."
"SOUNDS LIKE FUN TIMES."
YES...

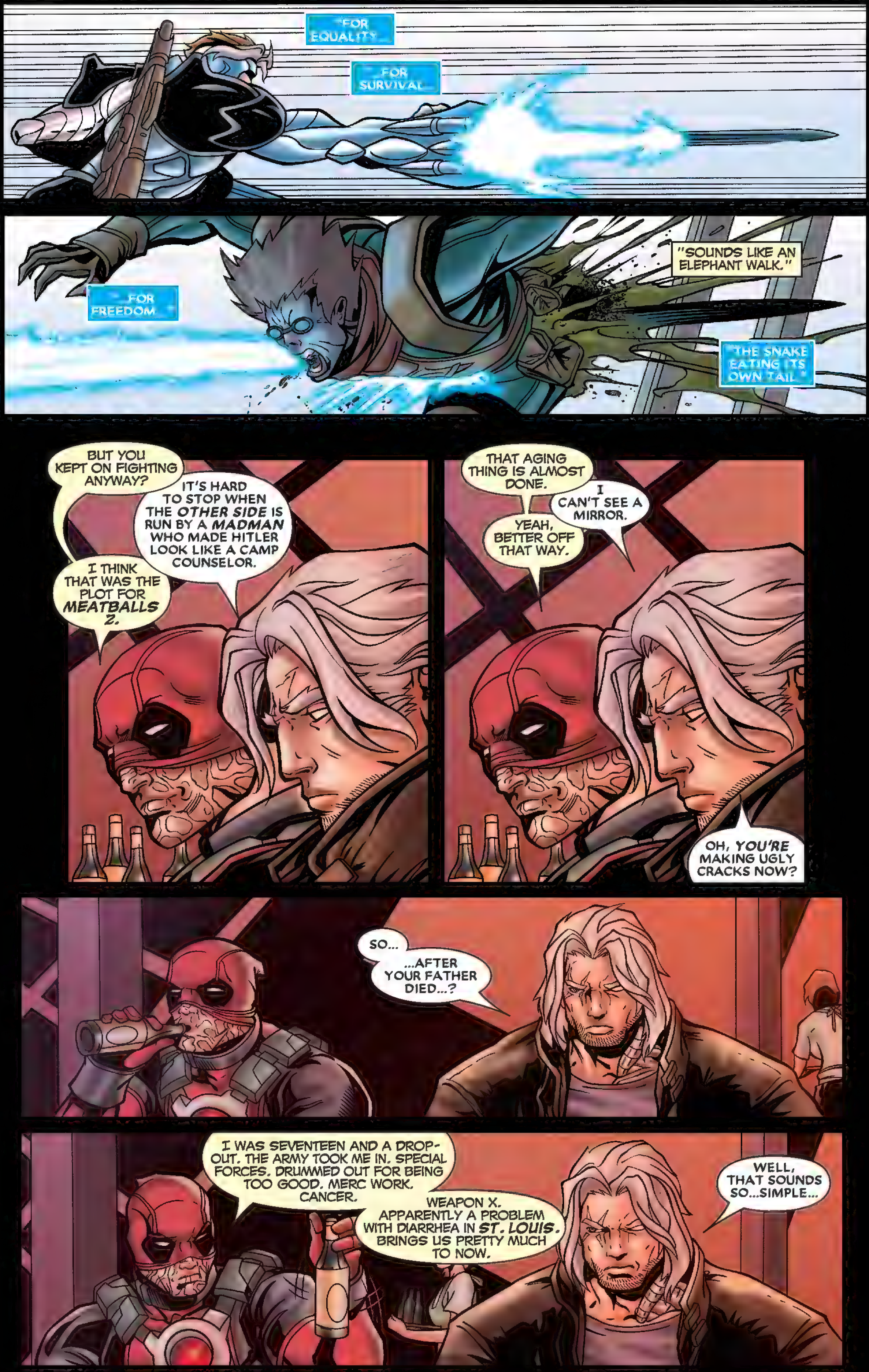

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
MY SEVENTEENTH?
"OH, YOU KNOW, SAME WAY AS I SPENT EVERY OTHER DAY...
"SOUNDS LIKE HARD TIMES."
"YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW, WHAT ELSE DOES A DUMB KID FROM OHIO HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO, RIGHT?
"ANYWAY, I'M SURE I HAD A BIIIIG PARTY, GOT THE USUAL PRESENT FROM MY OLD MAN..."
"I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE FROM OHIO."
"I'M NOT. I MEAN, NOT REALLY."
MY OLD MAN WAS ARMY. MY MOM DIED WHEN I WAS FIVE, THEN WE BOUNCED AROUND A LOT. A LOT...
I CAN SAY CHIMICHANGA IN SEVEN LANGUAGES.
IS THAT WHERE YOU GOT SUCH DISCRIMINATING INTERNATIONAL TASTES?

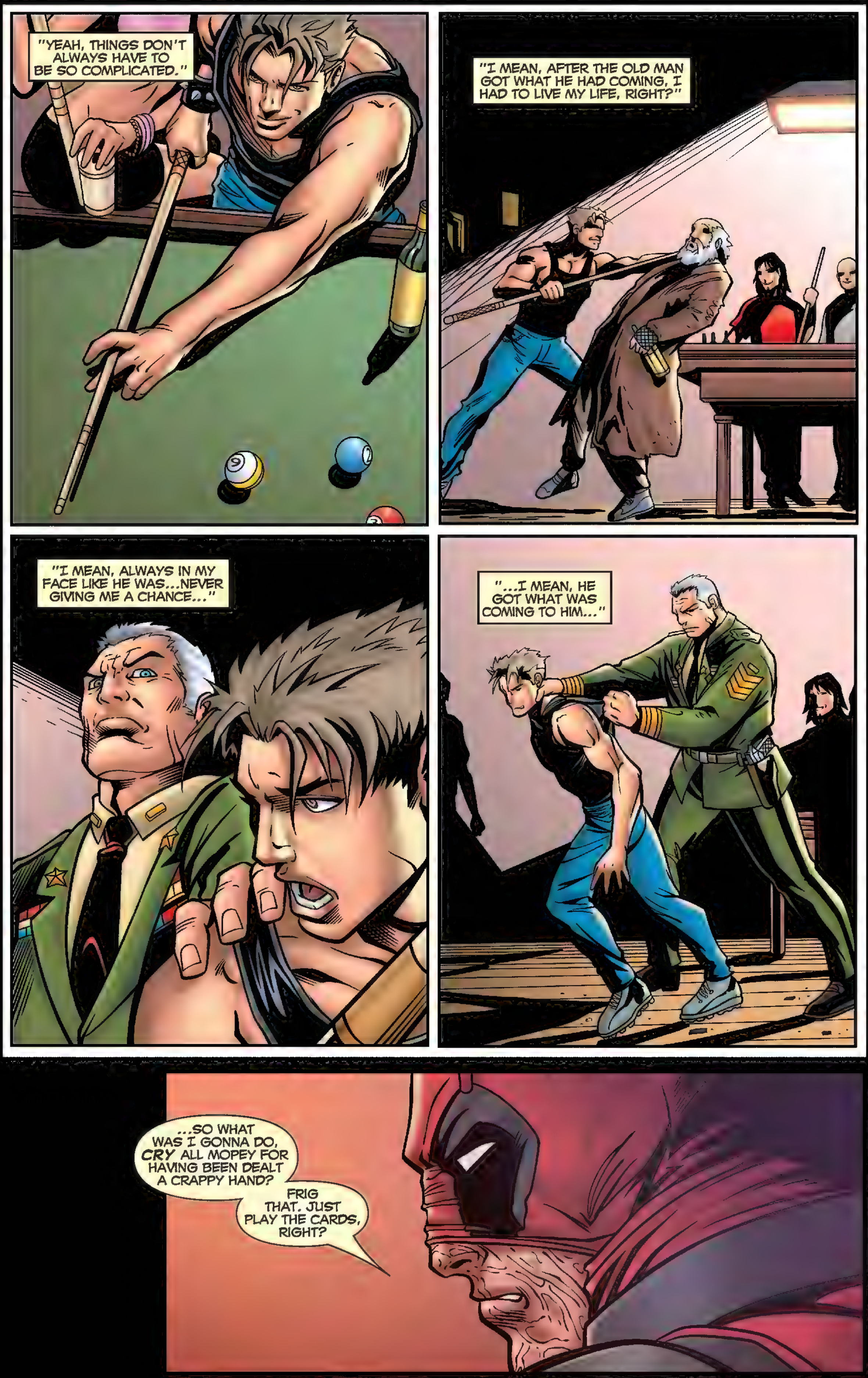

IS HE STILL ALIVE? YOUR FATHER?
WHAT? NO...NO... HE'S NOT.
"HE WENT ON ONE OF HIS BENDERS. ALWAYS DID THINGS BY THE BOOK. GO ON A BENDER, MAKE IT A CLASSIC...
"'CEPT THIS TIME...HE GOT HIMSELF ***SHOT.***"
I'M SORRY, WADE.
ABOUT WHAT?
ALL MY LIFE I HAD KINSMEN AND CLAN--BROTHERS-IN-ARMS--BUT...IT WASN'T THE SAME...
...AND TO HAVE A FATHER--TO ***KNOW*** HIM--AND HAVE IT TURN OUT THAT WAY...
YEAH, WELL--NOT TO TRASH YOUR WHOLE ***'OPIE'S WORLD'*** LIFETIME MOVIE, BUT...

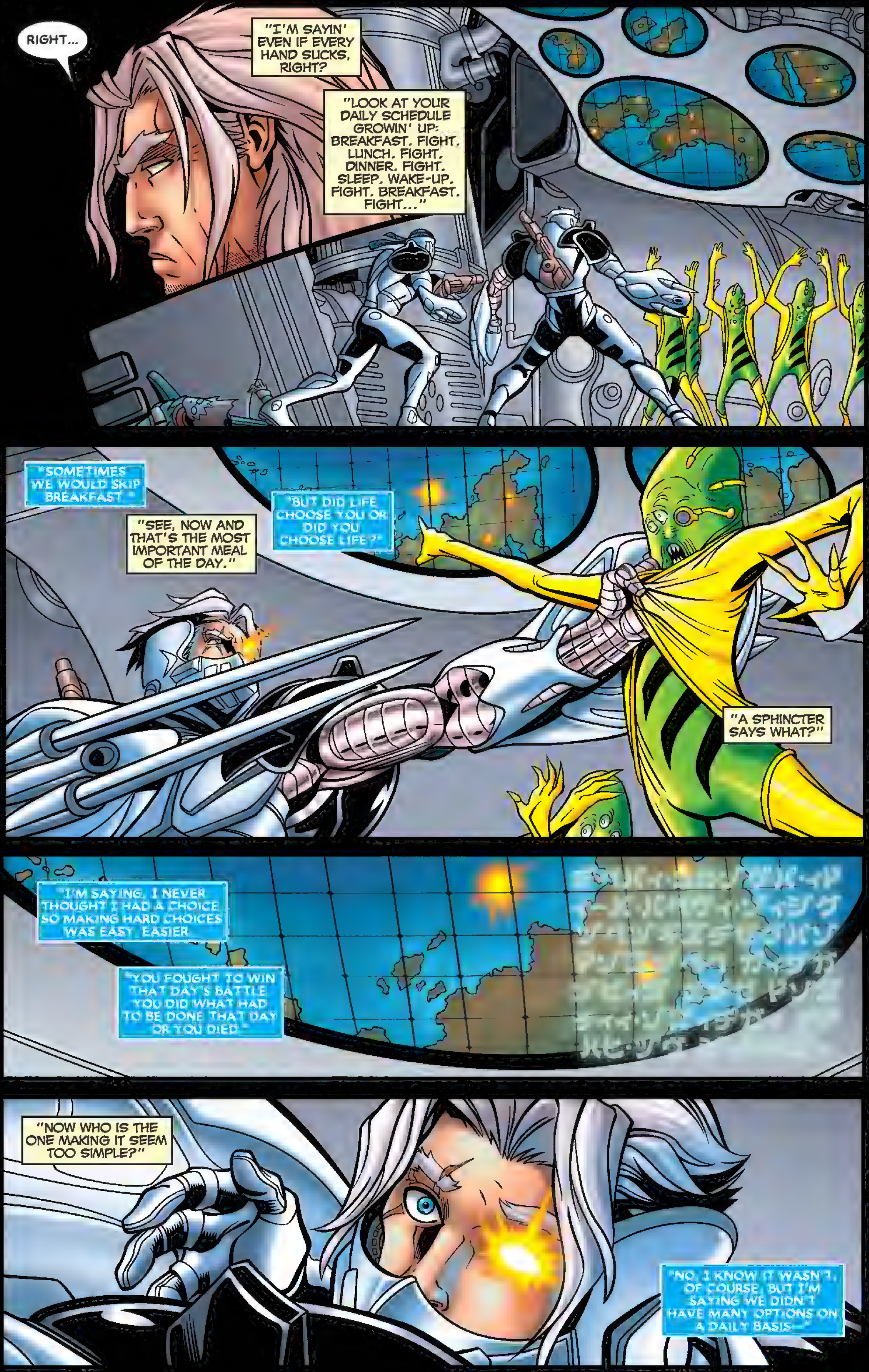

"...LIFE IS WHAT IT IS UNTIL IT'S NOT...
...AND USUALLY WHAT IT IS, IS *CRAP.*"
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T.
FOR AS MISERABLE A SELF-RIGHTEOUS TURD AS YOU ARE--WERE--WILL BE--*WHATEVER!* YOU'D *HAVE* TO BE ALL CRAZY *OPTIMISTIC*, WOULDN'T YOU?
I COULD NEVER LOSE *HOPE,* WADE.
EVER.
AN' I COULD NEVER AFFORD TO *HAVE* IT.
EVER.

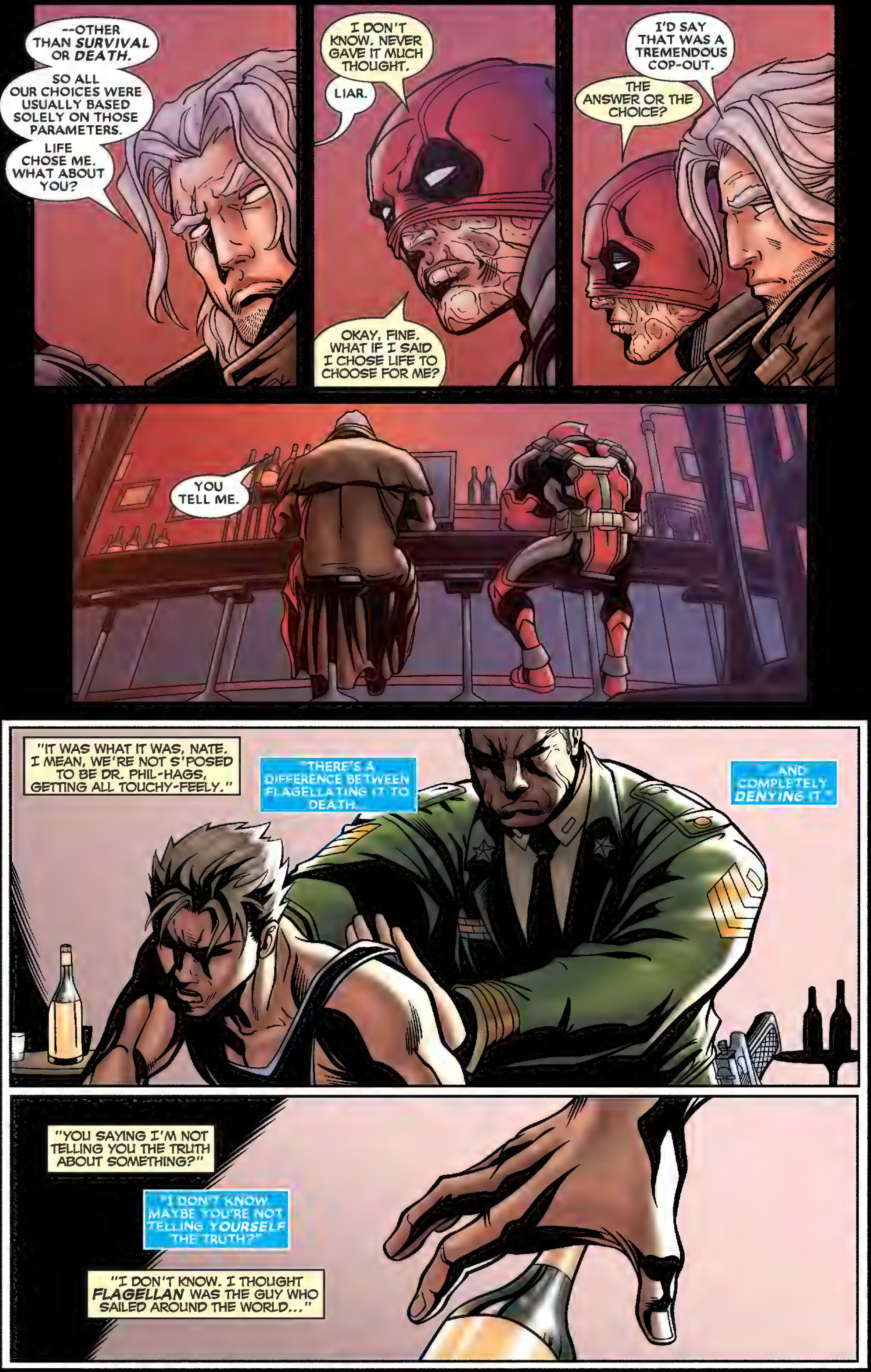

"HOW COULD YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE THAT WAY?"
"EASY. SEE, I TRIED THE HOPE CRAP ONCE.
"DIDN'T TAKE.
"FIGURED AFTER THAT, BETTER OFF WITHOUT IT..."
YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH--IS THAT WHAT STARTED YOUR FATHER'S PROBLEMS?
YEAH. HE HIT--A ROUGH PATCH--AFTER THAT...
"STARTED ACTIN' UP...
"...MAYBE TO GET ATTENTION, I DON'T KNOW--
"--MAYBE JUST TO *FEEL*...SOMETHING..."
"IS THIS STILL YOUR FATHER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT?"

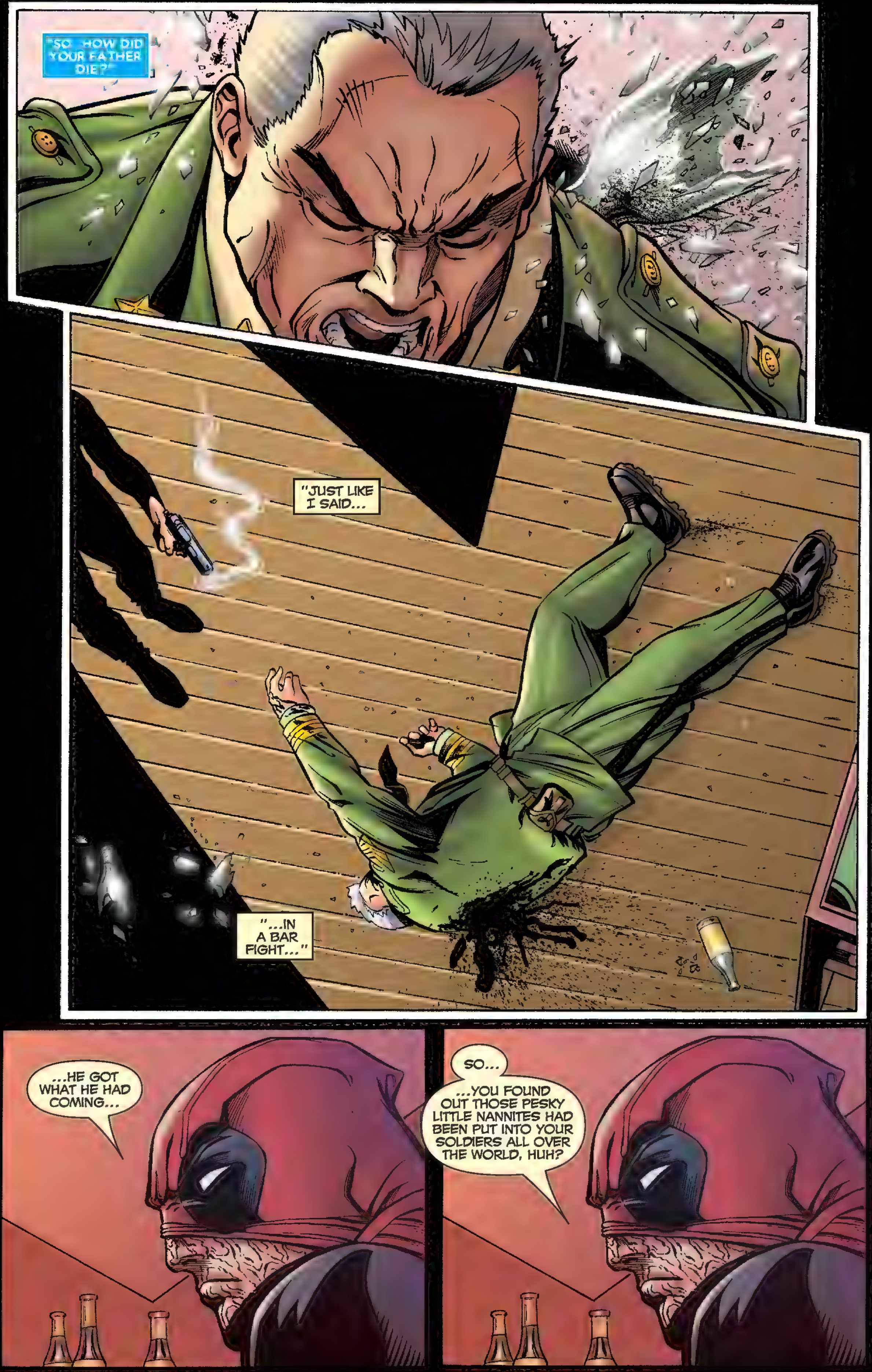

YEAH, WELL ANYWAY, I LIVED ANY LIFE YOU COULD SEE IN TEN SCORSESE MOVIES, BUT YOU--
--YOU FOUGHT A *WAR* SINCE YOU WERE OUT OF *DIAPERS*--
--BUT WHAT WERE YOU FIGHTING *FOR?*
I COULD REALLY USE A BEER...
C'MON, YOU'RE ALL MISTER "*FIGHT FOR PEACE,*" BUT WAS IT REALLY THAT SIMPLE?
"IT'S NEVER SIMPLE."
"SO, THEN...?"
"FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, MUTANTS FOUGHT FOR *EQUALITY*, HUMANS FOR *SURVIVAL* OF THEIR SPECIES.
"HUNDREDS MORE AS THE LAST VESTIGES OF HUMANITY FOUGHT US FOR *FREEDOM*.
"HUNDREDS MORE AS MUTANTS FOUGHT EACH OTHER..."
"BUT WHAT *FOR?*"

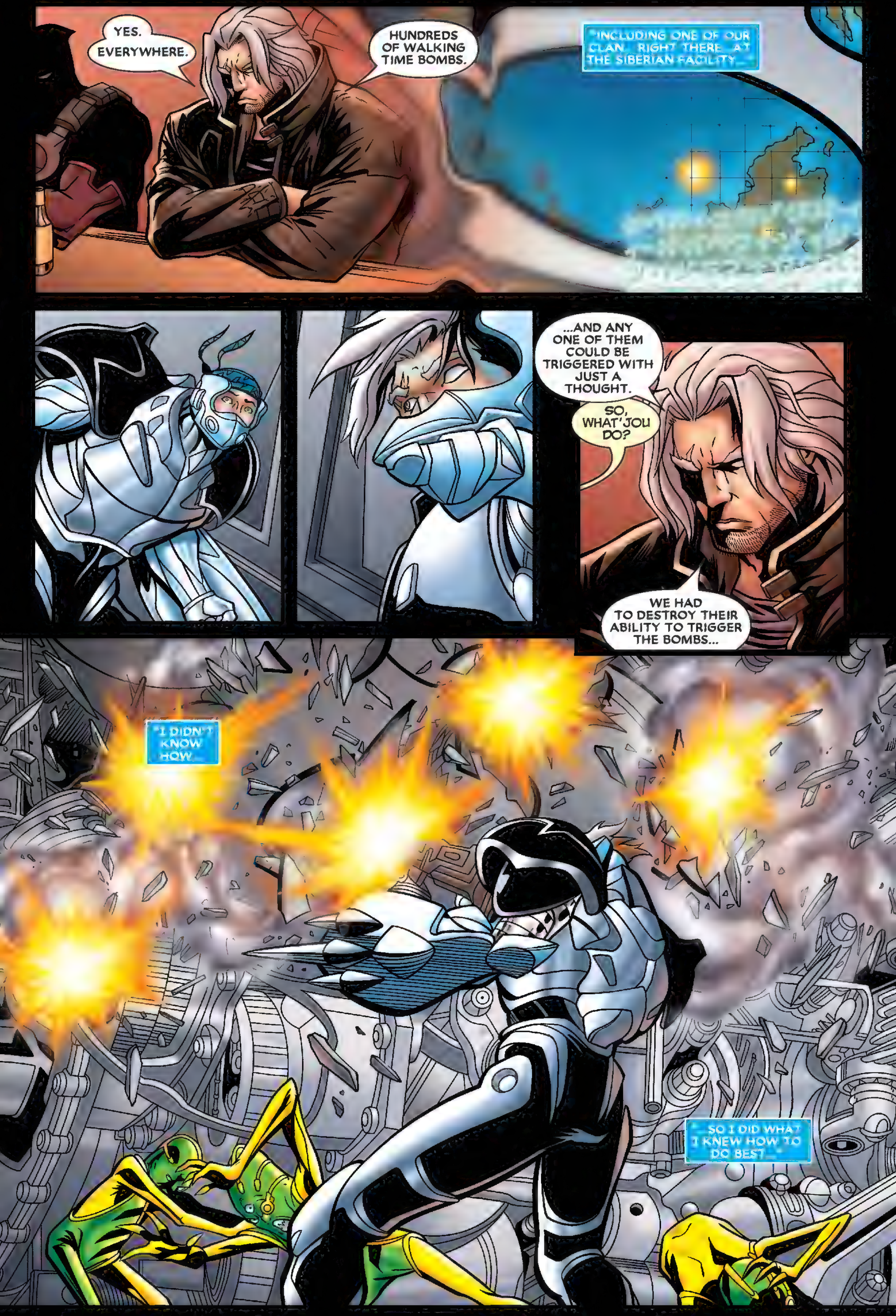

"FOR EQUALITY...
...FOR SURVIVAL...
...FOR FREEDOM...
"SOUNDS LIKE AN ELEPHANT WALK."
"THE SNAKE EATING ITS OWN TAIL."
BUT YOU KEPT ON FIGHTING ANYWAY?
IT'S HARD TO STOP WHEN THE *OTHER SIDE* IS RUN BY A *MADMAN* WHO MADE HITLER LOOK LIKE A CAMP COUNSELOR.
I THINK THAT WAS THE PLOT FOR *MEATBALLS 2.*
THAT AGING THING IS ALMOST DONE.
I CAN'T SEE A MIRROR.
YEAH, BETTER OFF THAT WAY.
OH, *YOU'RE* MAKING UGLY CRACKS NOW?
SO...
...AFTER YOUR FATHER DIED...?
I WAS SEVENTEEN AND A DROP-OUT. THE ARMY TOOK ME IN. SPECIAL FORCES. DRUMMED OUT FOR BEING TOO GOOD. MERC WORK. CANCER.
WEAPON X. APPARENTLY A PROBLEM WITH DIARRHEA IN *ST. LOUIS.* BRINGS US PRETTY MUCH TO NOW.
WELL, THAT SOUNDS SO...SIMPLE...

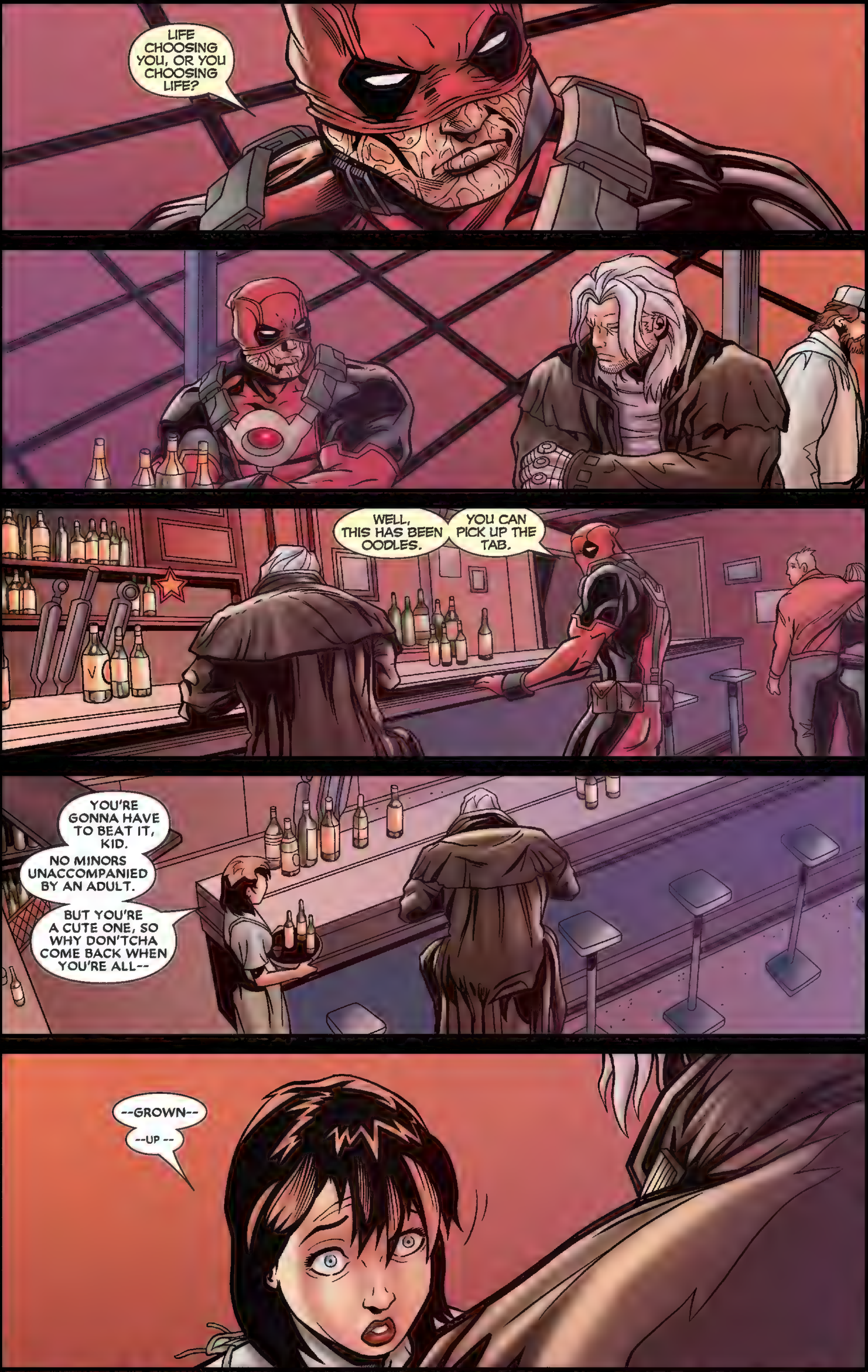

"YEAH, THINGS DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO COMPLICATED."
"I MEAN, AFTER THE OLD MAN GOT WHAT HE HAD COMING, I HAD TO LIVE MY LIFE, RIGHT?"
"I MEAN, ALWAYS IN MY FACE LIKE HE WAS...NEVER GIVING ME A CHANCE..."
"...I MEAN, HE GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO HIM..."
...SO WHAT WAS I GONNA DO, *CRY* ALL MOPEY FOR HAVING BEEN DEALT A CRAPPY HAND?
FRIG THAT. JUST PLAY THE CARDS, RIGHT?

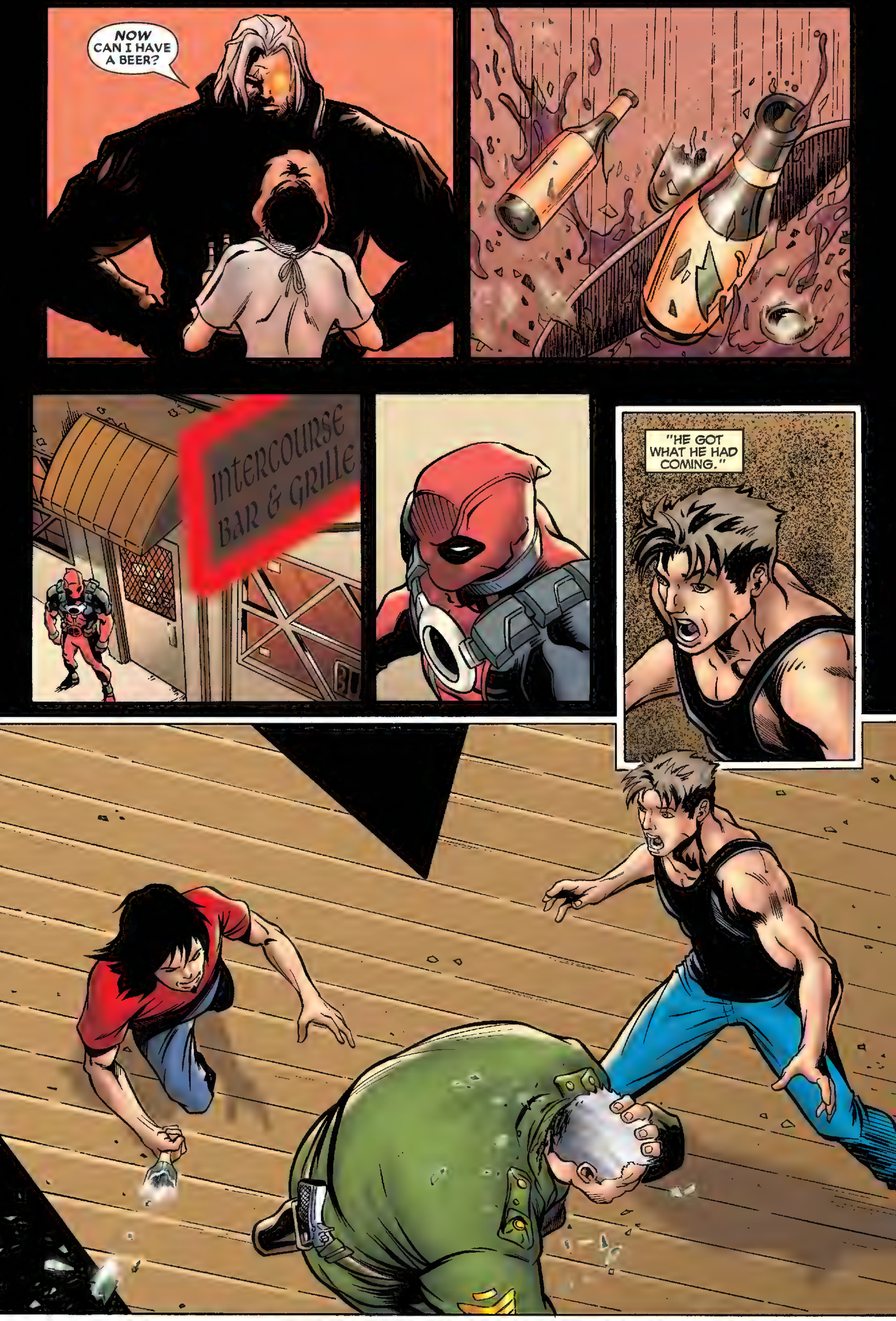

RIGHT...
"I'M SAYIN' EVEN IF EVERY HAND SUCKS, RIGHT?
"LOOK AT YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE GROWIN' UP: BREAKFAST. FIGHT. LUNCH. FIGHT. DINNER. FIGHT. SLEEP. WAKE-UP. FIGHT. BREAKFAST. FIGHT..."
"SOMETIMES WE WOULD SKIP BREAKFAST."
"SEE, NOW AND THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY."
"BUT DID LIFE CHOOSE YOU OR DID YOU CHOOSE LIFE?"
"A SPHINCTER SAYS WHAT?"
"I'M SAYING, I NEVER THOUGHT I HAD A CHOICE SO MAKING HARD CHOICES WAS EASY. EASIER.
"YOU FOUGHT TO WIN THAT DAY'S BATTLE. YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE THAT DAY OR YOU DIED."
"NOW WHO IS THE ONE MAKING IT SEEM TOO SIMPLE?"
"NO, I KNOW IT WASN'T, OF COURSE, BUT I'M SAYING WE DIDN'T HAVE MANY OPTIONS ON A DAILY BASIS--"

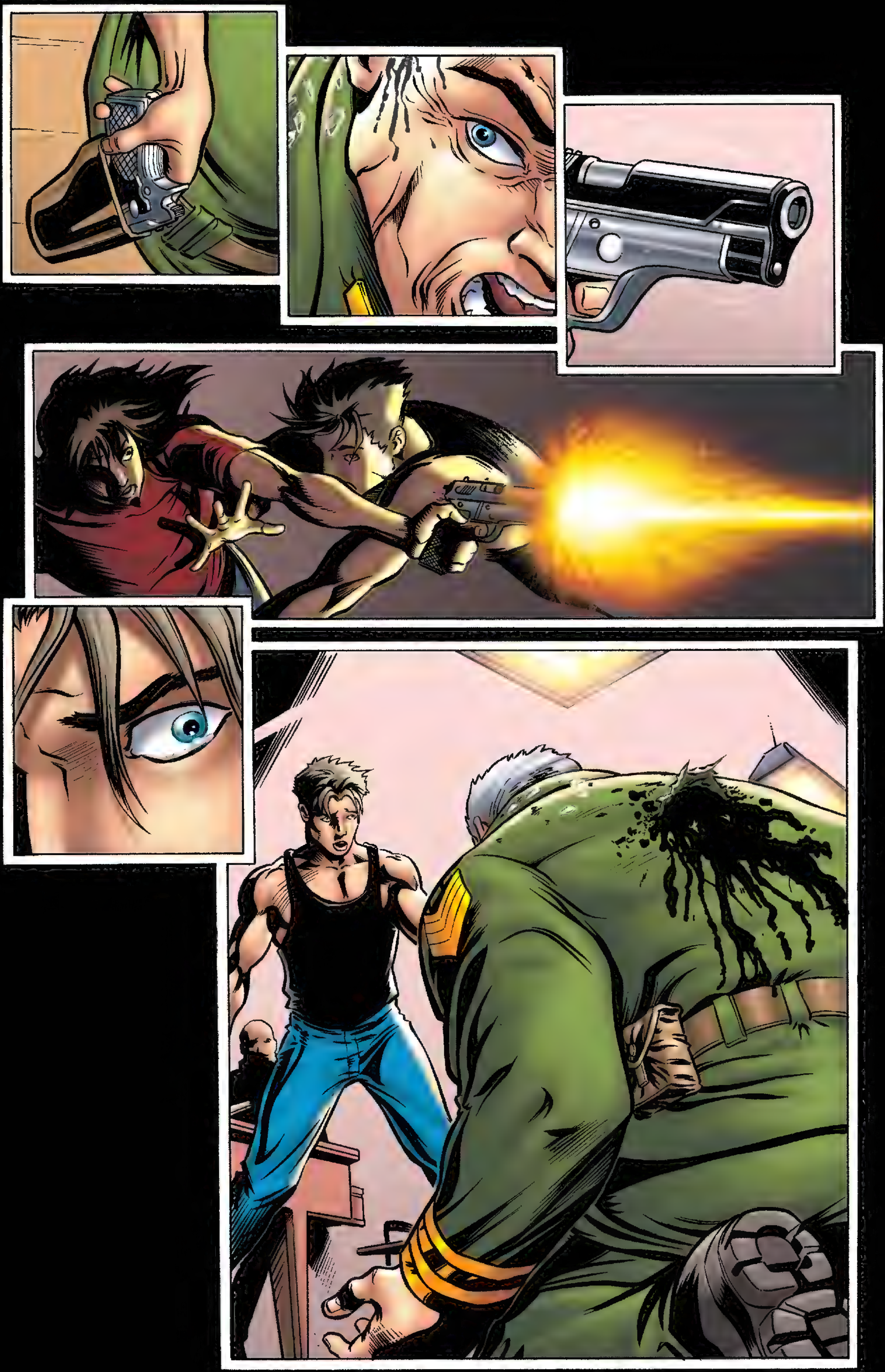

--OTHER THAN *SURVIVAL* OR *DEATH.*
SO ALL OUR CHOICES WERE USUALLY BASED SOLELY ON THOSE PARAMETERS.
LIFE CHOSE ME. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I DON'T KNOW. NEVER GAVE IT MUCH THOUGHT.
LIAR.
OKAY, FINE. WHAT IF I SAID I CHOSE LIFE TO CHOOSE FOR ME?
I'D SAY THAT WAS A TREMENDOUS COP-OUT.
THE ANSWER OR THE CHOICE?
YOU TELL ME.
"IT WAS WHAT IT WAS, NATE. I MEAN, WE'RE NOT S'POSED TO BE DR. PHIL-HAGS, GETTING ALL TOUCHY-FEELY."
"THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FLAGELLATING IT TO DEATH...
...AND COMPLETELY *DENYING* IT."
"YOU SAYING I'M NOT TELLING YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT SOMETHING?"
"I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT TELLING *YOURSELF* THE TRUTH?"
"I DON'T KNOW. I THOUGHT *FLAGELLAN* WAS THE GUY WHO SAILED AROUND THE WORLD..."

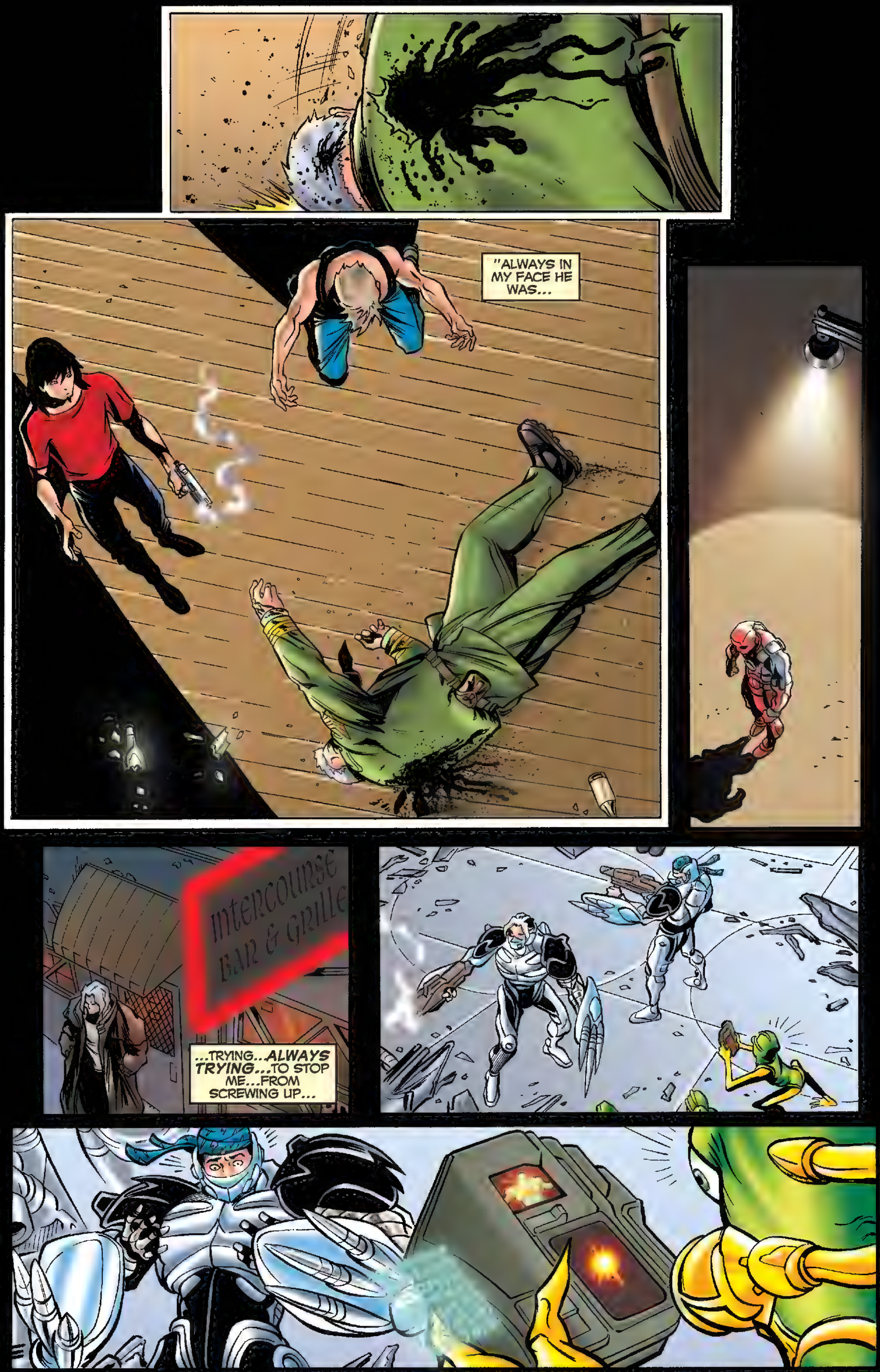

"SO, HOW DID YOUR FATHER DIE?"
"JUST LIKE I SAID...
"...IN A BAR FIGHT..."
...HE GOT WHAT HE HAD COMING...
SO...
...YOU FOUND OUT THOSE PESKY LITTLE NANNITES HAD BEEN PUT INTO YOUR SOLDIERS ALL OVER THE WORLD, HUH?

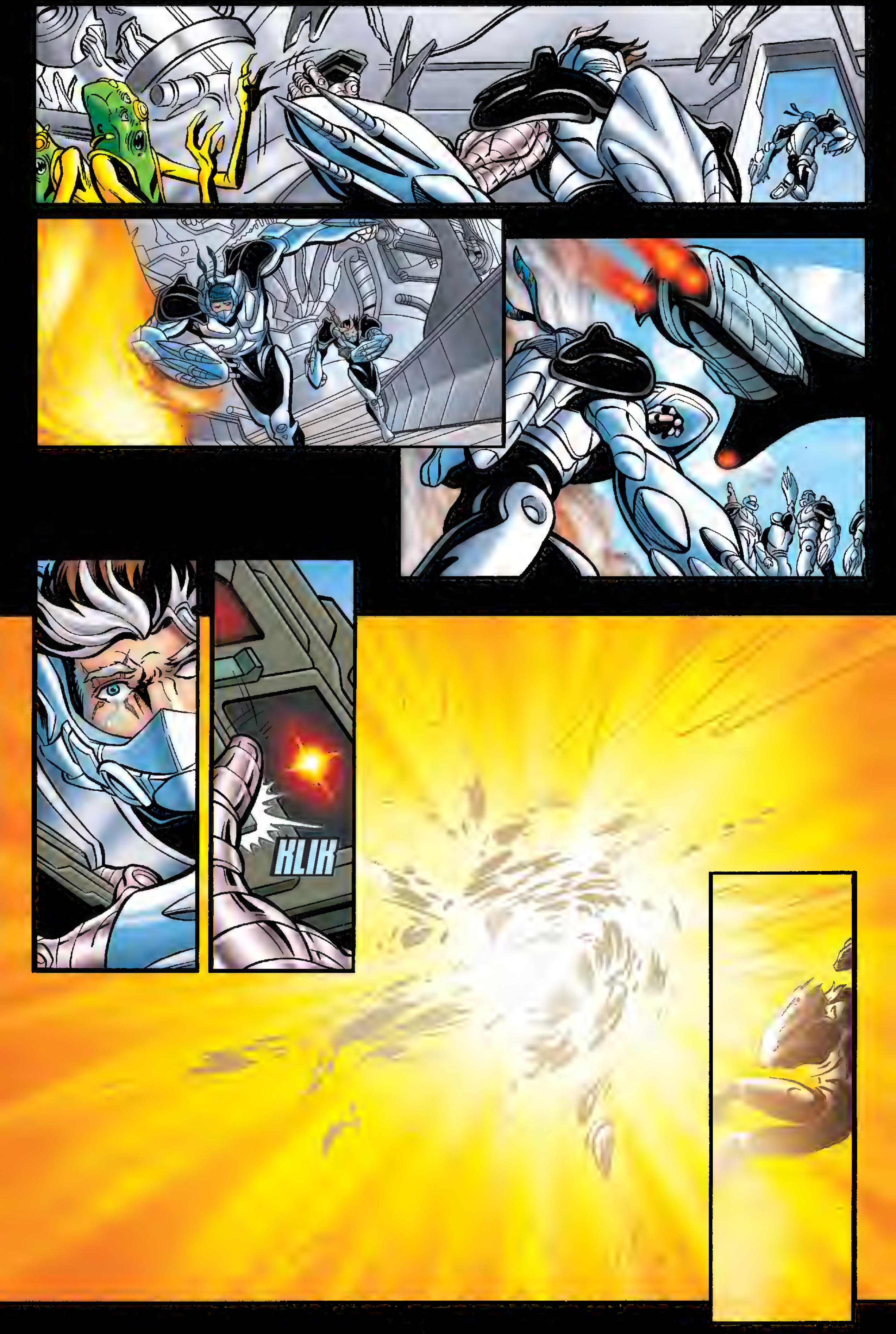

YES. EVERYWHERE.
HUNDREDS OF WALKING TIME BOMBS.
"INCLUDING ONE OF OUR CLAN, RIGHT THERE, AT THE SIBERIAN FACILITY..."
...AND ANY ONE OF THEM COULD BE TRIGGERED WITH JUST A THOUGHT.
SO, WHAT'JOU DO?
WE HAD TO DESTROY THEIR ABILITY TO TRIGGER THE BOMBS...
"I DIDN'T KNOW HOW...
...SO I DID WHAT I KNEW HOW TO DO BEST..."


LIFE CHOOSING YOU, OR YOU CHOOSING LIFE?
WELL, THIS HAS BEEN OODLES.
YOU CAN PICK UP THE TAB.
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO BEAT IT, KID.
NO MINORS UNACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
BUT YOU'RE A CUTE ONE, SO WHY DON'TCHA COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE ALL--
--GROWN--
--UP --


NOW CAN I HAVE A BEER?
INTERCOURSE BAR & GRILLE
"HE GOT WHAT HE HAD COMING."




"ALWAYS IN MY FACE HE WAS...
INTERCOURSE BAR & GRILLE
...TRYING...ALWAYS TRYING...TO STOP ME...FROM SCREWING UP...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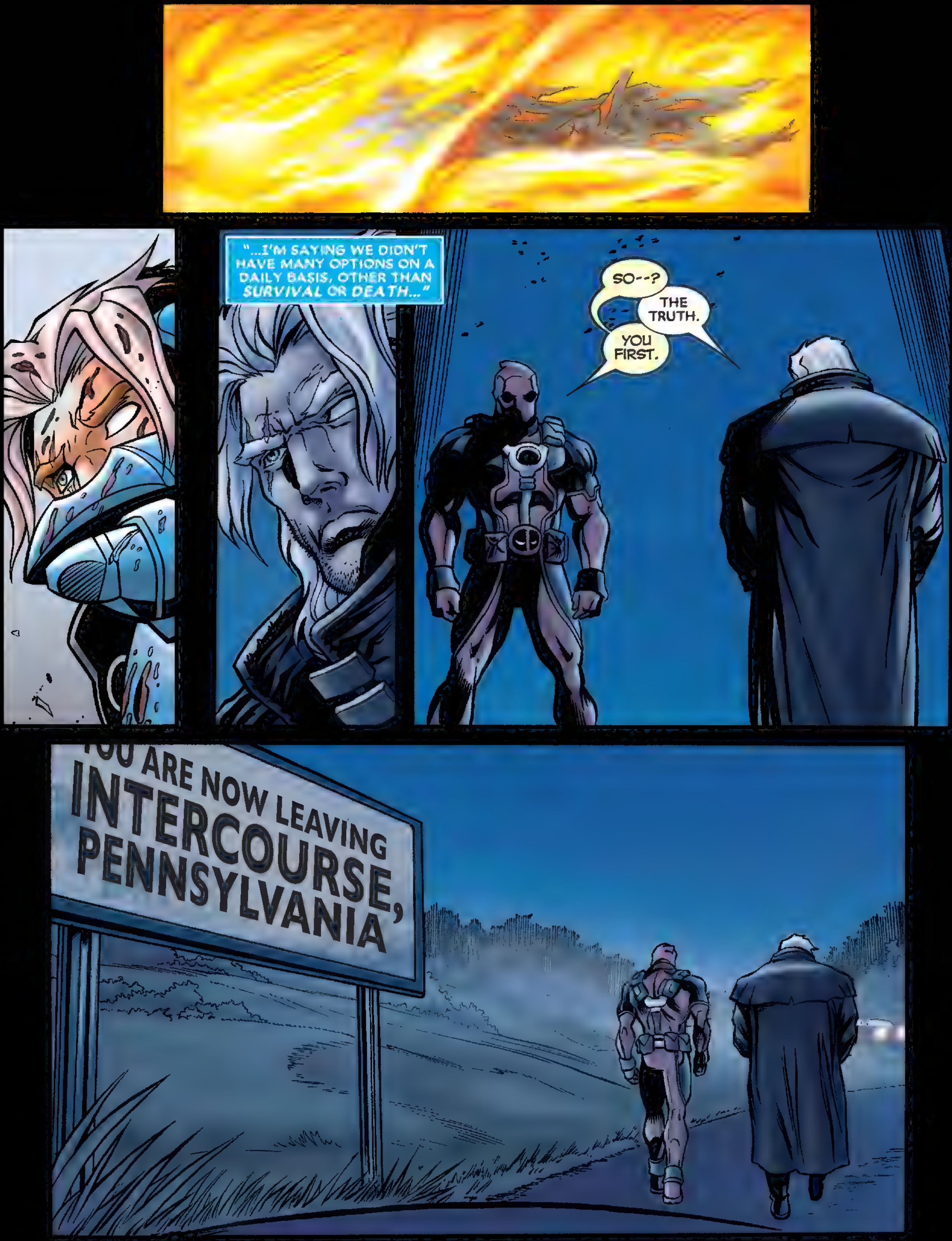

"...I'M SAYING WE DIDN'T HAVE MANY OPTIONS ON A DAILY BASIS, OTHER THAN *SURVIVAL* OR *DEATH*..."
SO--?
THE TRUTH.
YOU FIRST.
YOU ARE NOW LEAVING INTERCOURSE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DEADPOOL

Deadpool here. Nate asked if he could answer the letters again and I told him there was some little kid precariously perched in the open window of a burning tenement building in the Bronx. He bought it. Sucker.

So anyway, Nicole tells me that our first letter comes from a guy who also had a letter printed in Uncanny X-Men. He also shows up in the bar in this issue. Either the guy's a geek or he wants to follow in editor Ralph Macchio's footsteps. Or maybe they're one and the same thing…

Dear Deadpool (and everyone working on the *C&DP* title),

Issue 17 was great. Marvel needs more barbecues taking place. But what was up with "goatee-less" Mr. Sinister? All evil scientists (even the best evil scientist) need a goatee! Just kidding, Patrick's rendition (since my last letter I've been hitting the dictionary/thesaurus) was freaky awesome.

However, some horrible information hit me after reading the issue--scrolling through the sales lists, it seems somehow *C&DP* is slipping in the charts. At first I thought this was because of a lack of babes--but then Domino and Siryn have been in recent issues, and a very cool serpenty (is that a word?) trio are guest starring soon. So it's not lack of good looking women. Maybe lack of villains, then—nope, can't be that either (Mr. Sinister, Horsemen of Apocalypse, Lightmaster!!!). Then it hit me what was missing....a *C&DP* team up with the GLX (née GLA), The X-Babies and the remaining X-Forcers. Call it "House of XXX" and this amazing title will shoot through the roof.

Keep up the great work and Make Mine Marvel!

Gary Pickup, Salford, UK

Serpenty is indeed, not a word. Nice try, Gary. As for House of Triple X, count me in. I might even have some editorial suggestions that could really help increase its sales. Three words: Naked Dinah Soar.

Oh Grand Poobah Deadpool (Heheheh... poo), please share your knowledge with me on the following.

When will you grace the big screen with your presence? Someone as awesome as you should have a multi-picture deal by now.

Secondly, since I'm very busy buying all those Deadpool figures off of eBay as a wise retirement investment, this hardly leaves me with any time to check out those other titles that you guest star in. (You're too cool for cameos. What you do is guest star.) Would it be possible to list upcoming guest star appearances in this book of yours that you share with that other guy?

Ah, shoot, while I was busy writing this some creep just outbid me on one of your figures. If you'll excuse me, now I'm off to shove a Galactus figure where the sun don't shine on that poor fellow.

Jean Seguin, via e-mail

Okay Jean, are you a girl or just French or something? Anyways, you tried to trick me by sending a letter that should have included numbered questions, but didn't. That confuses me almost as much as your curiously genderless name.

So, #1) Yes, I hope to be gracing the big screen with my big presence in a special production of House of Triple X, probably not coming soon to a theatre near you. If you're being serious, all I know about any feature film about me is that Nicieza said it won't happen unless he gets to write the screenplay, so I wouldn't hold your breath.

As for #2, I haven't gotten any licensing contracts from Marvel regarding guest-starring appearances. They're supposed to clear this through my agent!

Hey Wade,

What's up with you getting owned all the time in issue 11? Do you like the fact you have to get saved by Mr. Kentucky all the time? Because I don't. Actually, the point of this letter is to personally thank Fabian from the bottom of my heart for bringing in Mr. Sinister on that last page. If there is ever an under-appreciated villain in the history of comics, it's Sinister. I hope the next issue(s) feature him prominently, because I think Doc Essex needs some more screen time in the Marvel U. Why has he been dormant for so long?

In fact, I think you need to team up with him, beat Cannonball up for fun, and then raise baby Cable *My Two Dads* style. "You can count on me, no matter what you do. You can count on me, no matter where you go. I'm standing by your side."

You strike me as the-80's-sitcom-theme-junkie type, Wade. I know you know it.

In all seriousness, this title is glorious. A sincere thank you to the whole entire creative team, you guys are producing gold.

Conor, Brookfield, CT

***My Two Dads*. You gotta love life.**

Dear Deadpool,

You are the coolest cancer sufferer who went to Weapon X to get them to save him and now is a mercenary who just won't shut up ever... that's a pretty small list, but it's something, right?

I'm loving the book and now own every issue, and every issue you make me laugh out loud with your crazy form of comedy.

Keep up the wacky adventures and don't stop annoying Cable.

You rock!

Liam Johnson, UK

I do rock. You are correct. I do. I don't know if there's a *People* magazine list for Coolest Cancer Survivors Ever or anything like that, but I'd have to figure I rate pretty high on it.

Nicole says, "This one came in a regular envelope, and I am taking the extra time to type it and everything." As if good old fashioned letters that need to be reset should be so alien to her. Then again, when *My Two Dads* was on the air, Nicole was probably about 4 years old. I'm feeling old right now.

Anyway, the letter's a lot of fun, but it's from a chick, which means it kinda rambles a lot, so I'll throw my comments into the letter as it goes along…

I printed this letter on company time and on the company computer And it wasn't even my break! I broke laws just for you, DP ♥

After reading the many letters from female readers expressing their love of you and Cable, I finally have decided to mail you a letter gushing about the great job you guys are doing. I would have written sooner but after working fifty hours a week I spend the little time I have buying Marvel books, reading Marvel books, and organizing Marvel books. I know, I know, you are going to say mean and hurtful things to me, Deadpool. But what if I say to you that I possess every book you have ever appeared in, including your first appearance in *New Mutants* and some obscure issue of *Silver Sable*? **[I would say that you are deeply damaged goods with wonderful taste in comics reading material.]** I recall the many happy moments of laughing out loud at your antics and receiving weird looks from the people sitting nearby. **[News flash: that ain't 'cause you're laughing at the comics.]** Remember that classic issue of *Deadpool* #11 where you came up with over a dozen different insults for Norman and Harry Osbourne's hair? Classic. Sheer genius. **[It totally was, I agree, but Nicieza is mumbling something about how he didn't write that one and telling me to move on.]** However, I must also admit to you that I also possess every issue of the appearance of Nathan Christopher Charles Askani'Son Dayspring The Chosen One Cable Soldier X Summers (did I get them all?). **[You forgot Priscilla.]** However, I almost forgot my point, which is that putting the two of you together in one book makes for great reading. **[Wow. A woman who forgot her point in the middle of her conversation. What a rare flower you must be, indeed.]** Plus, if the two of you were in separate books I would have to pay an extra $2.99 every month. **[Ssh. Don't say anything. Marvel hasn't figured that out yet.]** Am I the only one who remembers when Marvel books were only $1.25? Ah, the good old days. **[Nicieza remembers being traumatized when comics went from 12 cents to 15 cents. And Macchio said something about "When comics were painted on parchment paper by monks…" I don't know.]**

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Kovesy, Shelton, CT

P.S. Please find it in our heart to print my letter. My first letter to Marvel was printed in the pages of your first series.

It's always easy for gal-pal readers to get me to print their letters. All it takes is a discreet naked picture or two and you're golden.

P.P.S. I even own your Bowen Deadpool mini bust. I don't have Cable's but I have yours. Although I do own four different statues of Gambit.

Frickin' Cajun French weenie. I'd like to bust him…

Anyway, I guess I've been as appalling as I possibly could be within the confines of our rating. My work here is done!

NEXT ISSUE:

Hilarity and hijinks ensue as Power Man and Iron Fist beat my butt all over my own comic book. All I know is Nate better show up by page ten to help me out or he's fired. Also, the B.A.D. Girls continue to tease in their serpenty way (whaddyou know, Gary, it works!). And we learn more about the mysterious Dominus Objective (as if any of you really care, you just want any lame excuse of a story for the sake of bad jokes and D-cup serpentiness).

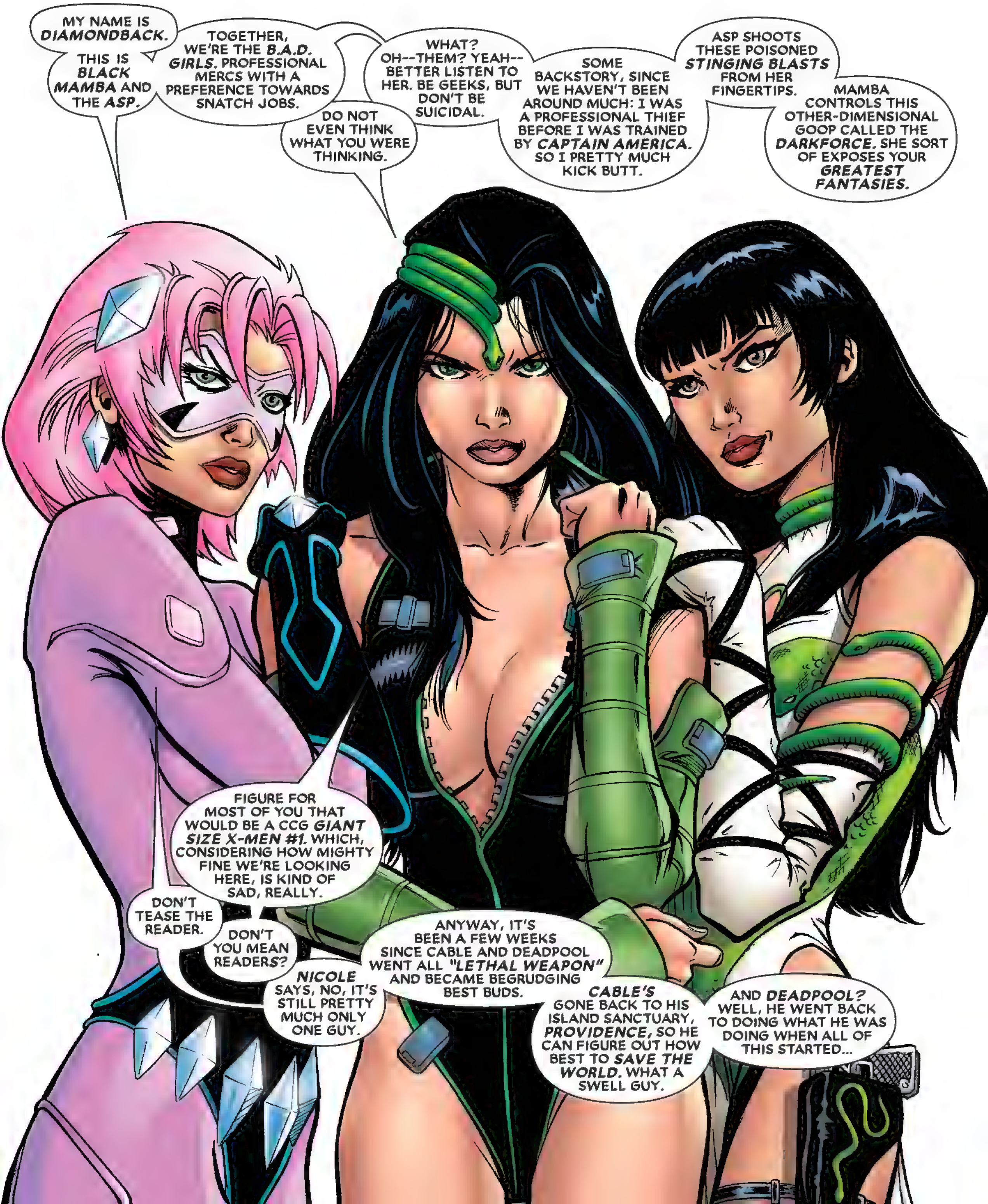
20

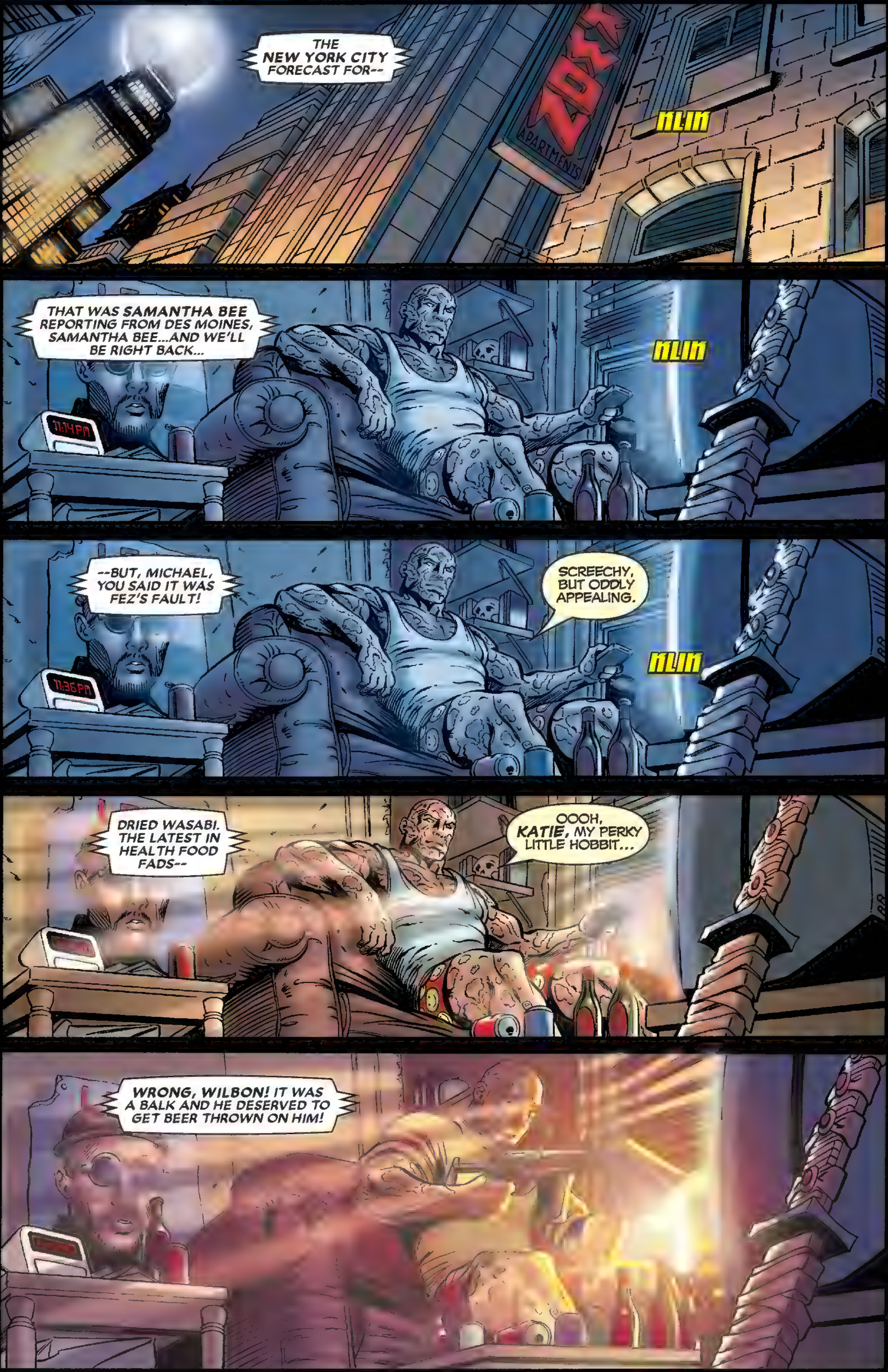
ZIRCHER
M3TH

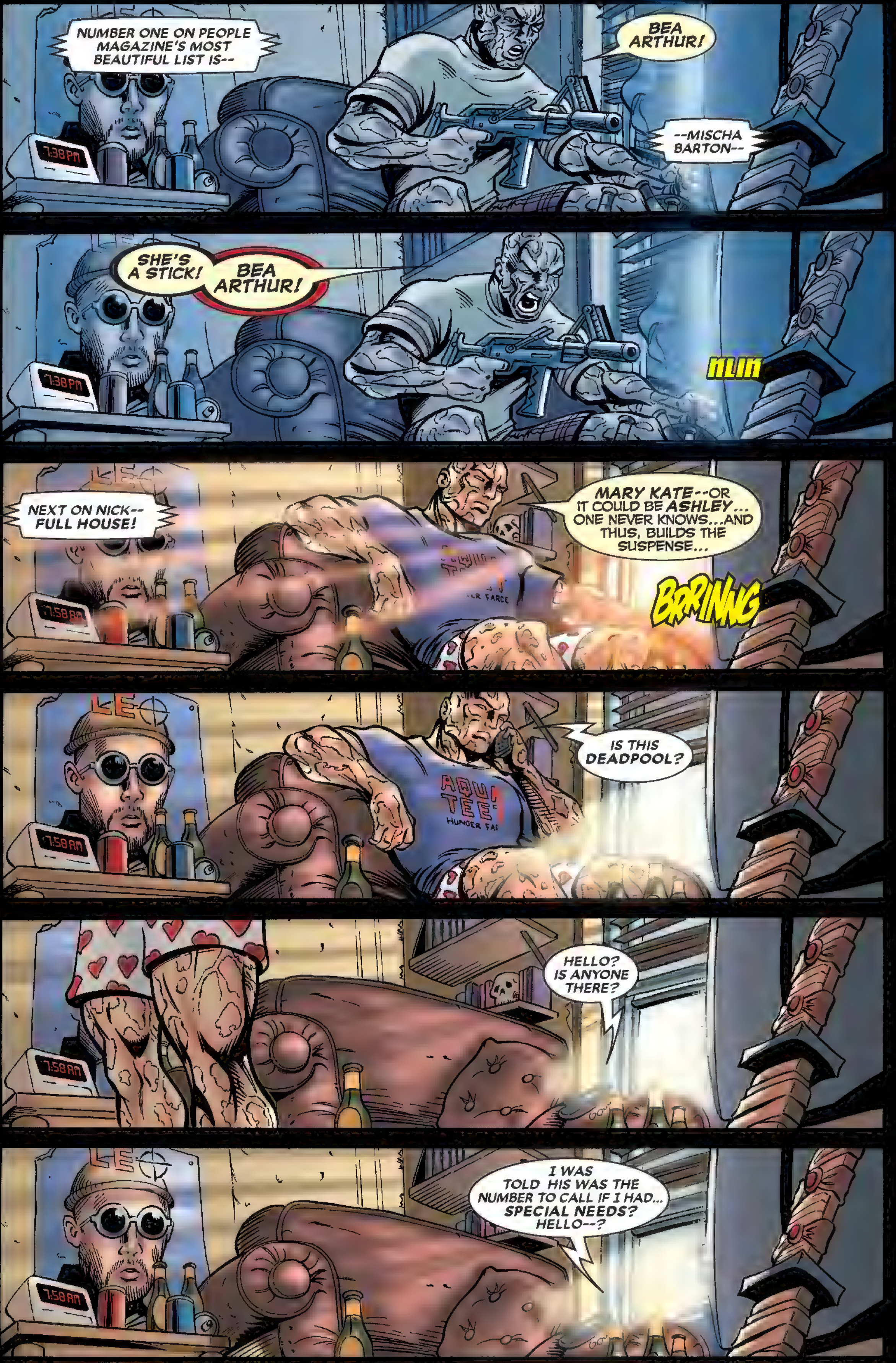
B.A.D. TO THE BONE

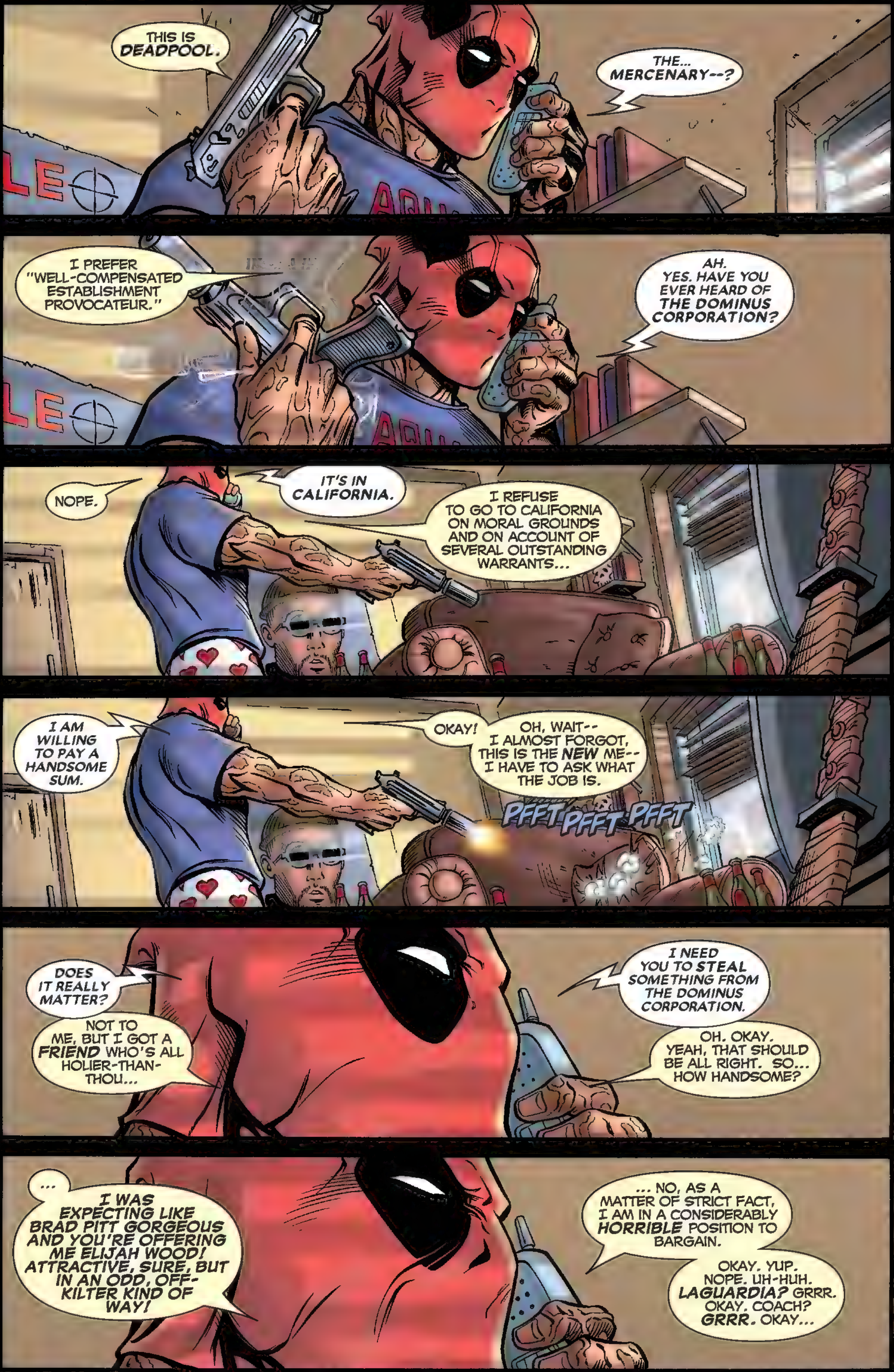
BOSOM BUDDIES

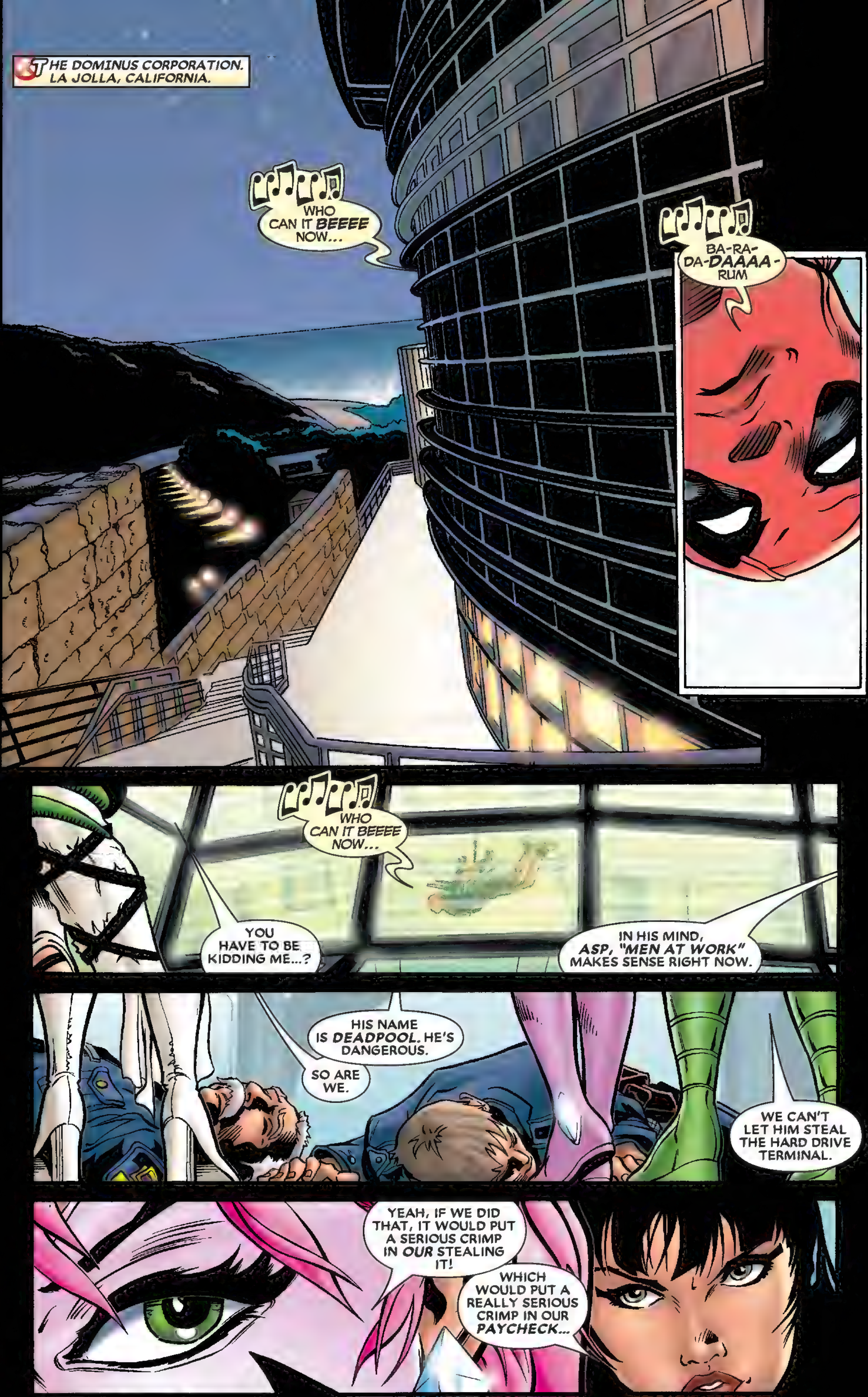
PART 1 OF 4

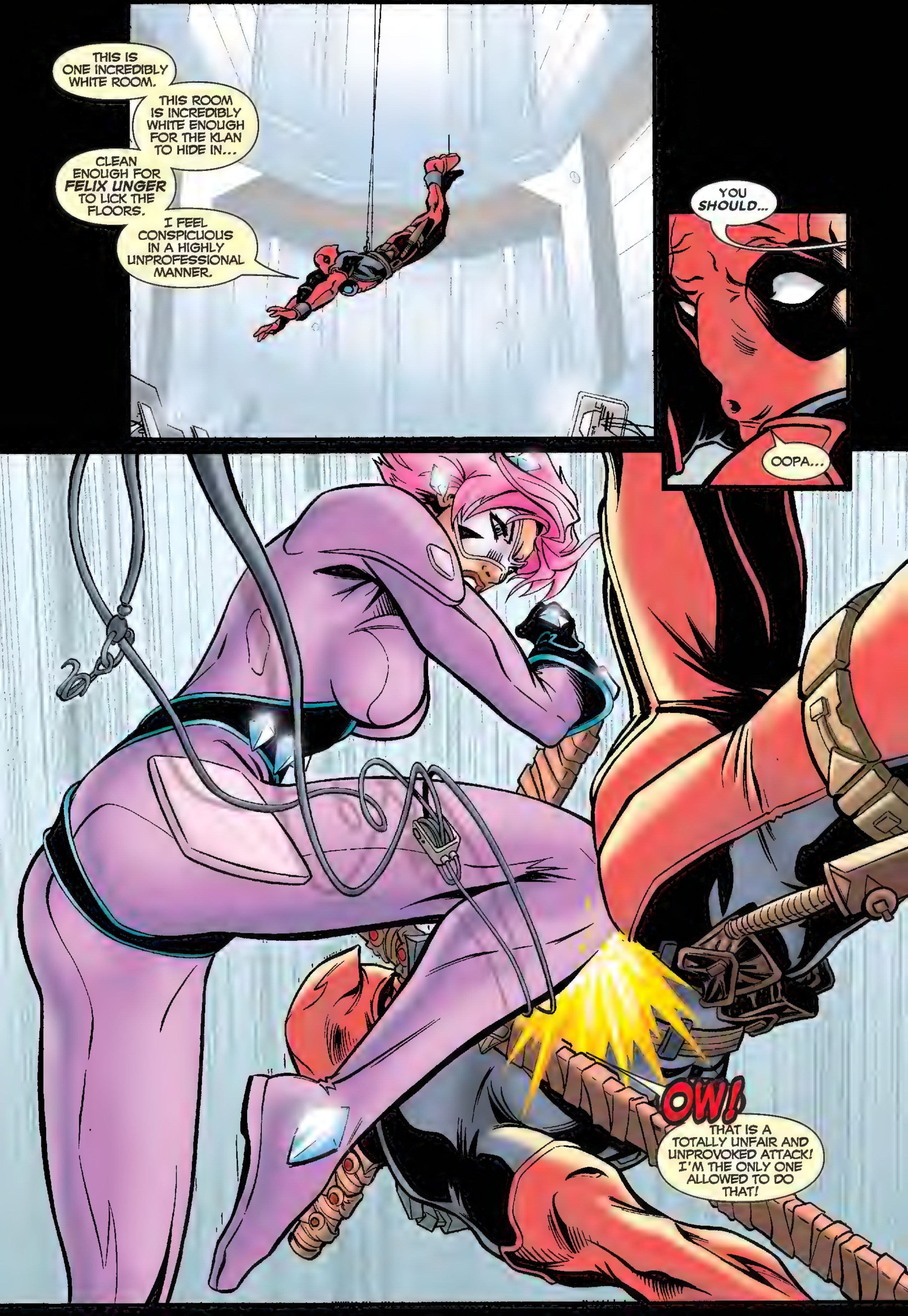

MY NAME IS *DIAMONDBACK.*
THIS IS *BLACK MAMBA* AND THE *ASP.*
TOGETHER, WE'RE THE *B.A.D. GIRLS.* PROFESSIONAL MERCS WITH A PREFERENCE TOWARDS SNATCH JOBS.
DO NOT EVEN THINK WHAT YOU WERE THINKING.
WHAT? OH--THEM? YEAH--BETTER LISTEN TO HER. BE GEEKS, BUT DON'T BE SUICIDAL.
SOME BACKSTORY, SINCE WE HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND MUCH: I WAS A PROFESSIONAL THIEF BEFORE I WAS TRAINED BY *CAPTAIN AMERICA.* SO I PRETTY MUCH KICK BUTT.
ASP SHOOTS THESE POISONED *STINGING BLASTS* FROM HER FINGERTIPS.
MAMBA CONTROLS THIS OTHER-DIMENSIONAL GOOP CALLED THE *DARKFORCE.* SHE SORT OF EXPOSES YOUR *GREATEST FANTASIES.*
FIGURE FOR MOST OF YOU THAT WOULD BE A CCG *GIANT SIZE X-MEN #1.* WHICH, CONSIDERING HOW MIGHTY FINE WE'RE LOOKING HERE, IS KIND OF SAD, REALLY.
DON'T TEASE THE READER.
DON'T YOU MEAN READERS?
NICOLE SAYS, NO, IT'S STILL PRETTY MUCH ONLY ONE GUY.
ANYWAY, IT'S BEEN A FEW WEEKS SINCE CABLE AND DEADPOOL WENT ALL *"LETHAL WEAPON"* AND BECAME BEGRUDGING BEST BUDS.
CABLE'S GONE BACK TO HIS ISLAND SANCTUARY, *PROVIDENCE,* SO HE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW BEST TO *SAVE THE WORLD.* WHAT A SWELL GUY.
AND *DEADPOOL?* WELL, HE WENT BACK TO DOING WHAT HE WAS DOING WHEN ALL OF THIS STARTED...

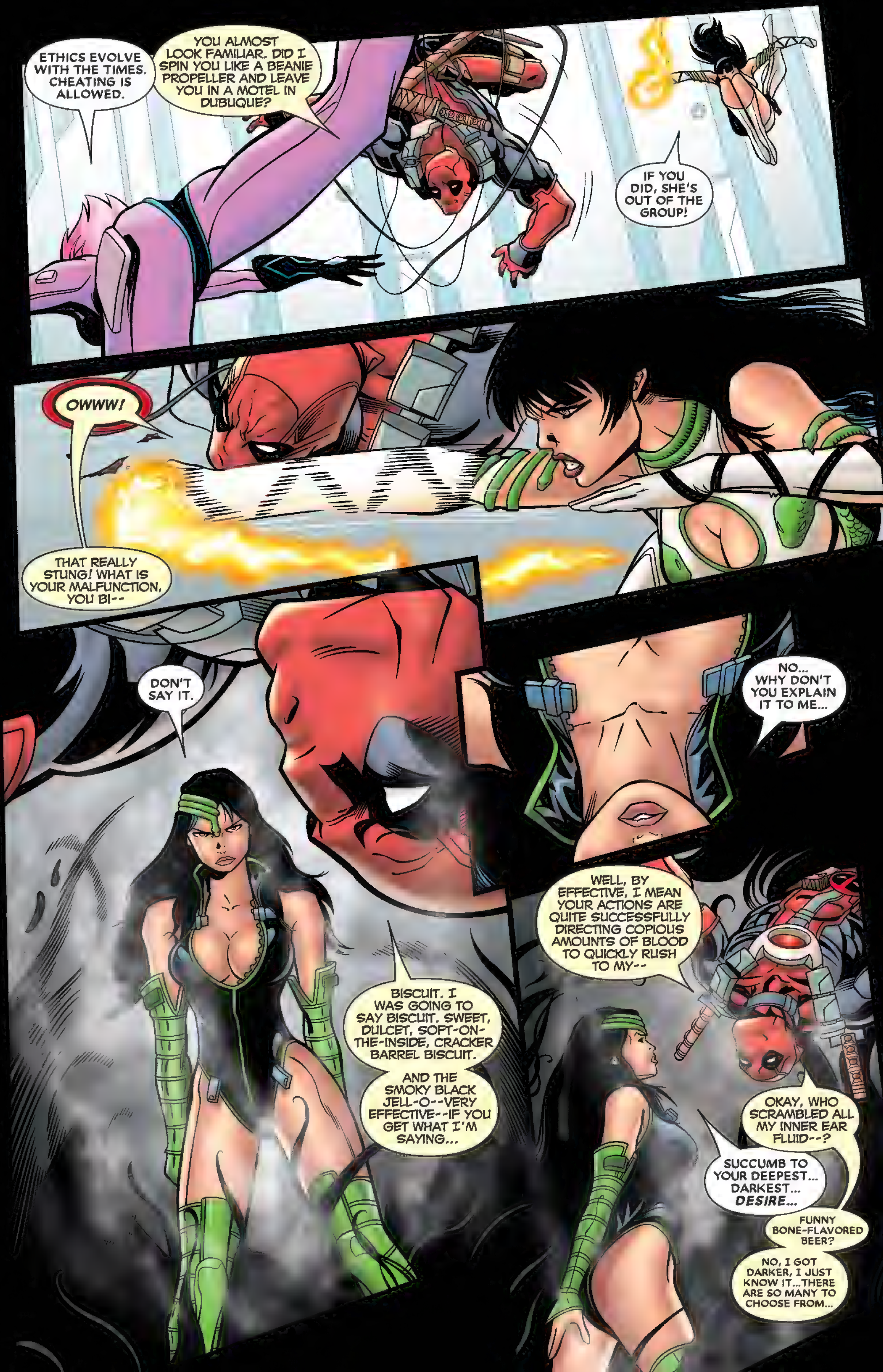

THE NEW YORK CITY FORECAST FOR--
APARTMENTS
KLIK
THAT WAS SAMANTHA BEE REPORTING FROM DES MOINES, SAMANTHA BEE...AND WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK...
11:14PM
KLIK
--BUT, MICHAEL, YOU SAID IT WAS FEZ'S FAULT!
SCREECHY, BUT ODDLY APPEALING.
11:36PM
KLIK
DRIED WASABI. THE LATEST IN HEALTH FOOD FADS--
OOOH, KATIE, MY PERKY LITTLE HOBBIT...
WRONG, WILBON! IT WAS A BALK AND HE DESERVED TO GET BEER THROWN ON HIM!

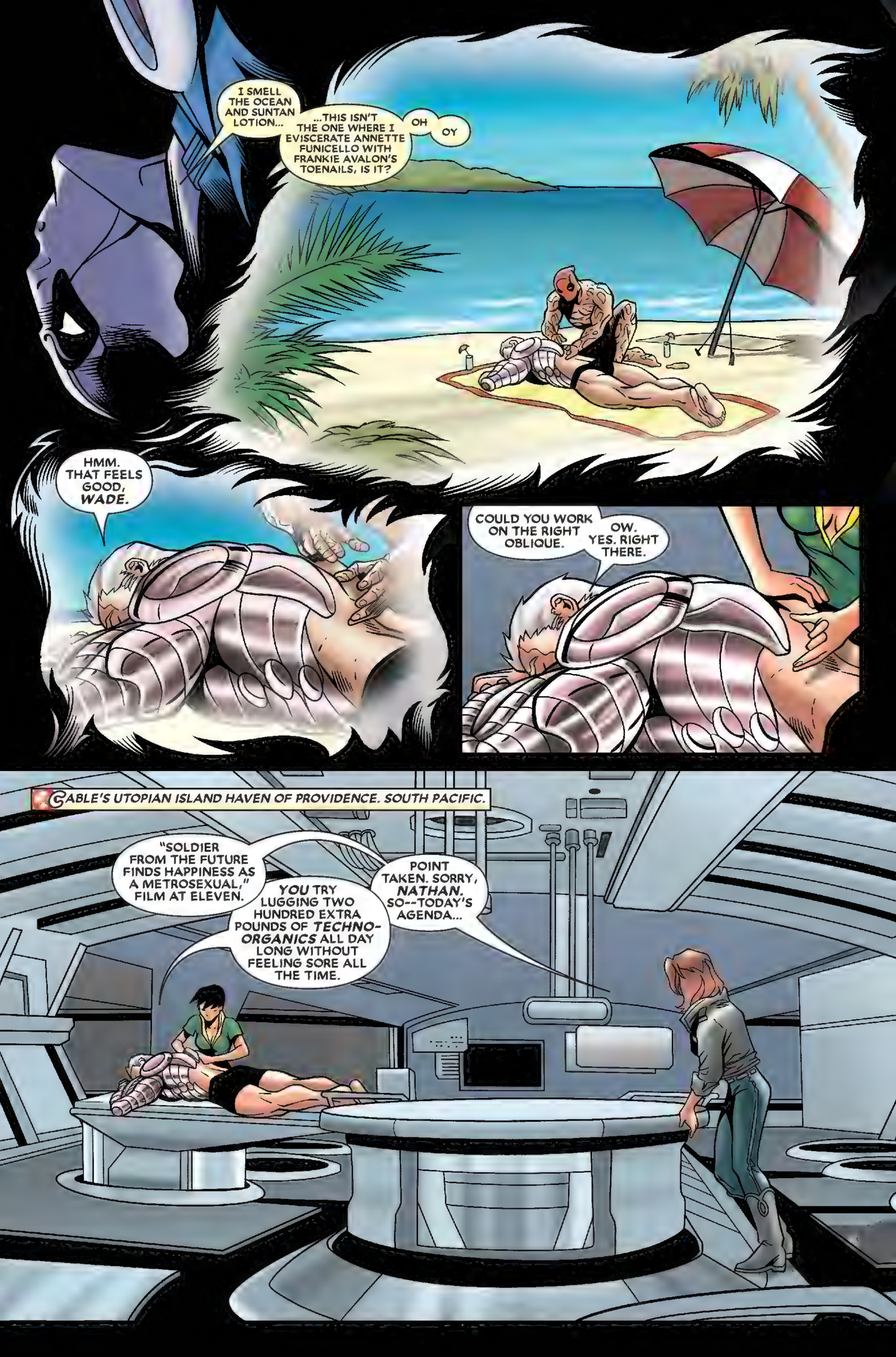

NUMBER ONE ON PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL LIST IS--
BEA ARTHUR!
--MISCHA BARTON--
7:38 PM
SHE'S A STICK!
BEA ARTHUR!
7:38 PM
KLIK
NEXT ON NICK-- FULL HOUSE!
MARY KATE--OR IT COULD BE ASHLEY... ONE NEVER KNOWS...AND THUS, BUILDS THE SUSPENSE...
BRRINNG
7:58 AM
IS THIS DEADPOOL?
7:58 AM
HELLO? IS ANYONE THERE?
7:58 AM
I WAS TOLD HIS WAS THE NUMBER TO CALL IF I HAD... SPECIAL NEEDS? HELLO--?
7:58 AM

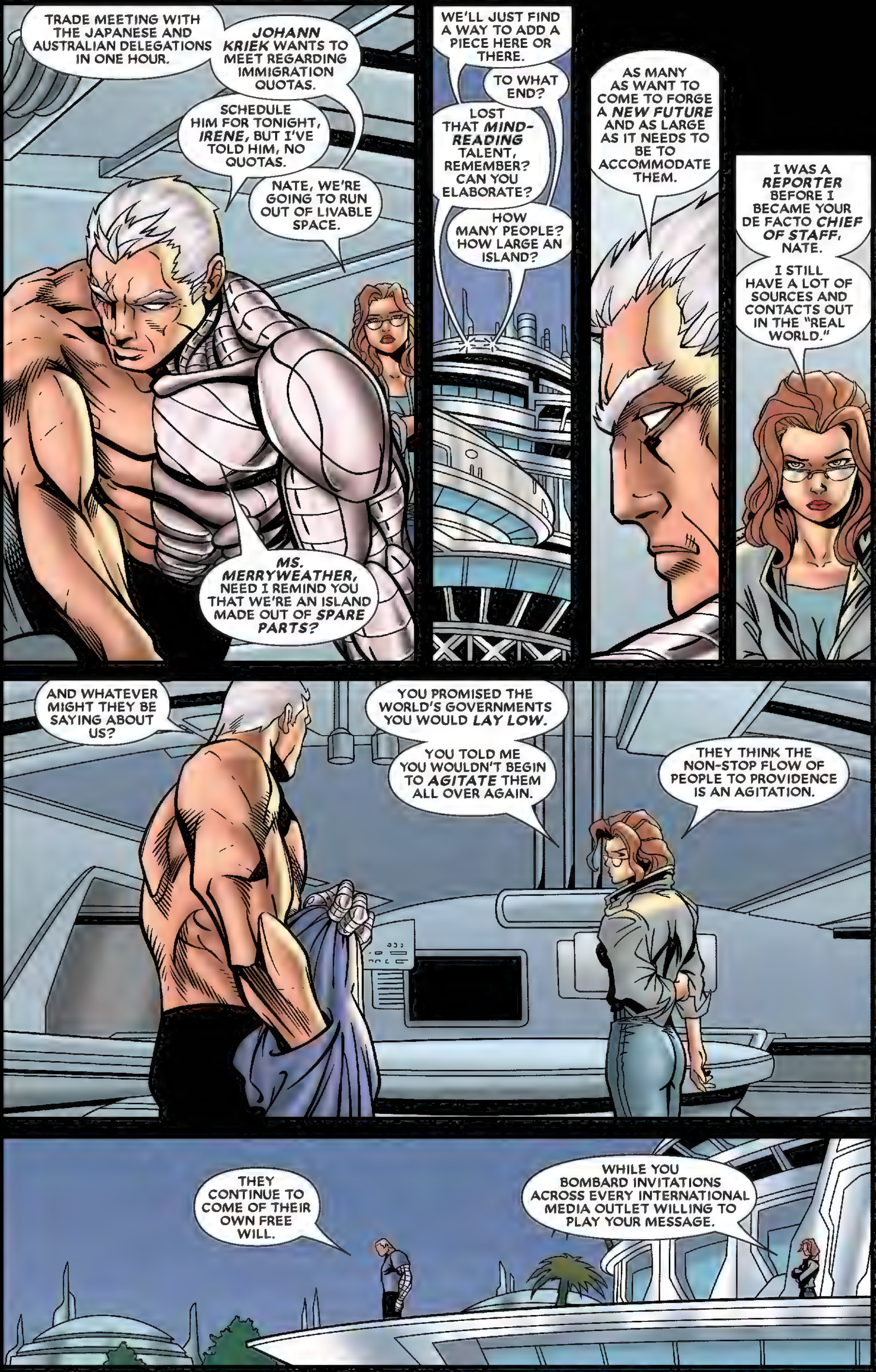

THIS IS DEADPOOL.
THE... MERCENARY--?
I PREFER "WELL-COMPENSATED ESTABLISHMENT PROVOCATEUR."
AH. YES. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE DOMINUS CORPORATION?
NOPE.
IT'S IN CALIFORNIA.
I REFUSE TO GO TO CALIFORNIA ON MORAL GROUNDS AND ON ACCOUNT OF SEVERAL OUTSTANDING WARRANTS...
I AM WILLING TO PAY A HANDSOME SUM.
OKAY!
OH, WAIT-- I ALMOST FORGOT, THIS IS THE NEW ME-- I HAVE TO ASK WHAT THE JOB IS.
PFFT PFFT PFFT
DOES IT REALLY MATTER?
NOT TO ME, BUT I GOT A FRIEND WHO'S ALL HOLIER-THAN-THOU...
I NEED YOU TO STEAL SOMETHING FROM THE DOMINUS CORPORATION.
OH. OKAY. YEAH, THAT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT. SO... HOW HANDSOME?
...
I WAS EXPECTING LIKE BRAD PITT GORGEOUS AND YOU'RE OFFERING ME ELIJAH WOOD! ATTRACTIVE, SURE, BUT IN AN ODD, OFF-KILTER KIND OF WAY!
... NO, AS A MATTER OF STRICT FACT, I AM IN A CONSIDERABLY HORRIBLE POSITION TO BARGAIN.
OKAY. YUP. NOPE. UH-HUH. LAGUARDIA? GRRR. OKAY. COACH? GRRR. OKAY...

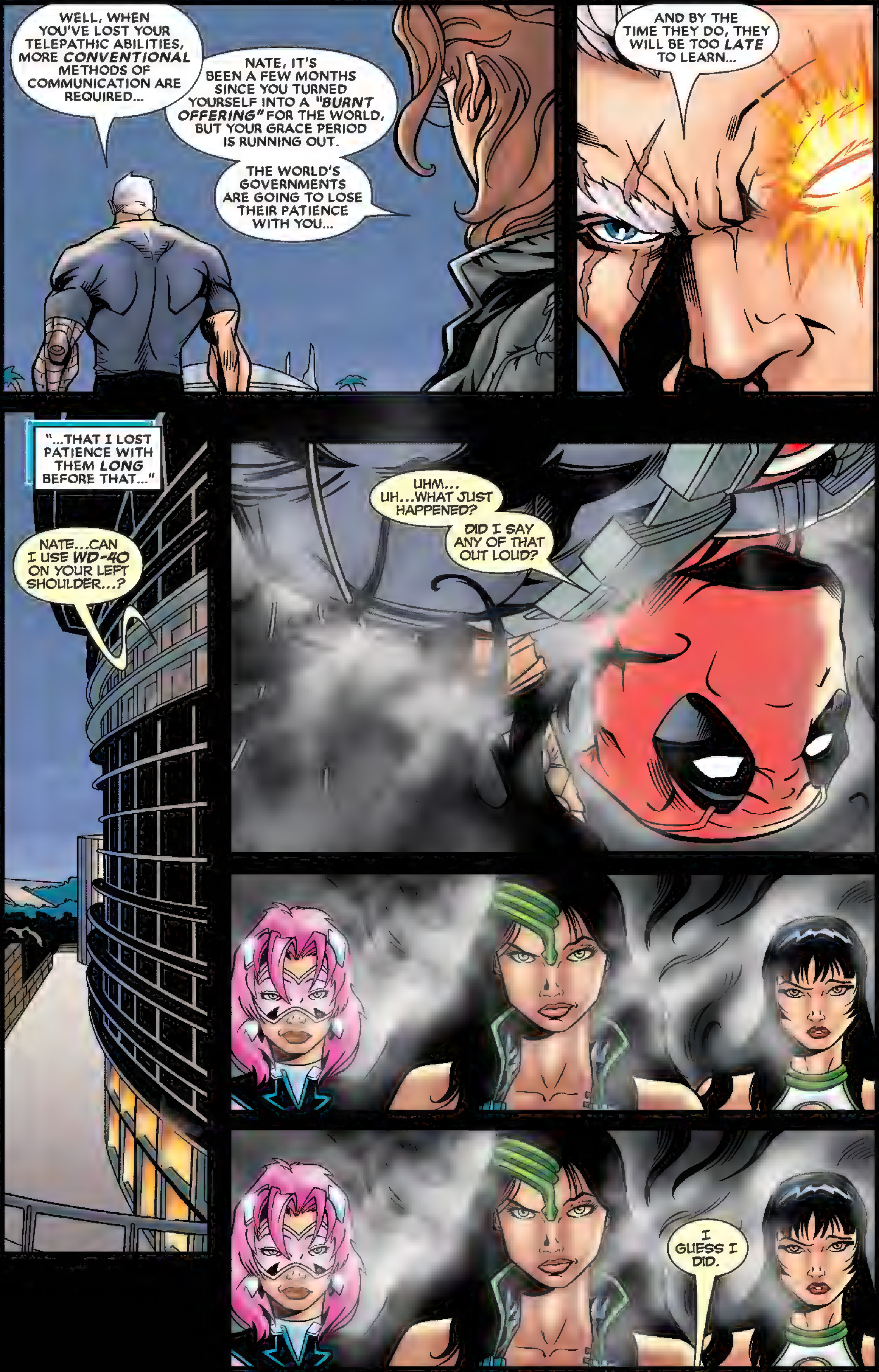

THE DOMINUS CORPORATION. LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA.
♫ WHO CAN IT BEEEE NOW...
♫ BA-RA-DA-DAAAA-RUM
♫ WHO CAN IT BEEEE NOW...
YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME...?
IN HIS MIND, ASP, "MEN AT WORK" MAKES SENSE RIGHT NOW.
HIS NAME IS DEADPOOL. HE'S DANGEROUS.
SO ARE WE.
WE CAN'T LET HIM STEAL THE HARD DRIVE TERMINAL.
YEAH, IF WE DID THAT, IT WOULD PUT A SERIOUS CRIMP IN OUR STEALING IT!
WHICH WOULD PUT A REALLY SERIOUS CRIMP IN OUR PAYCHECK...

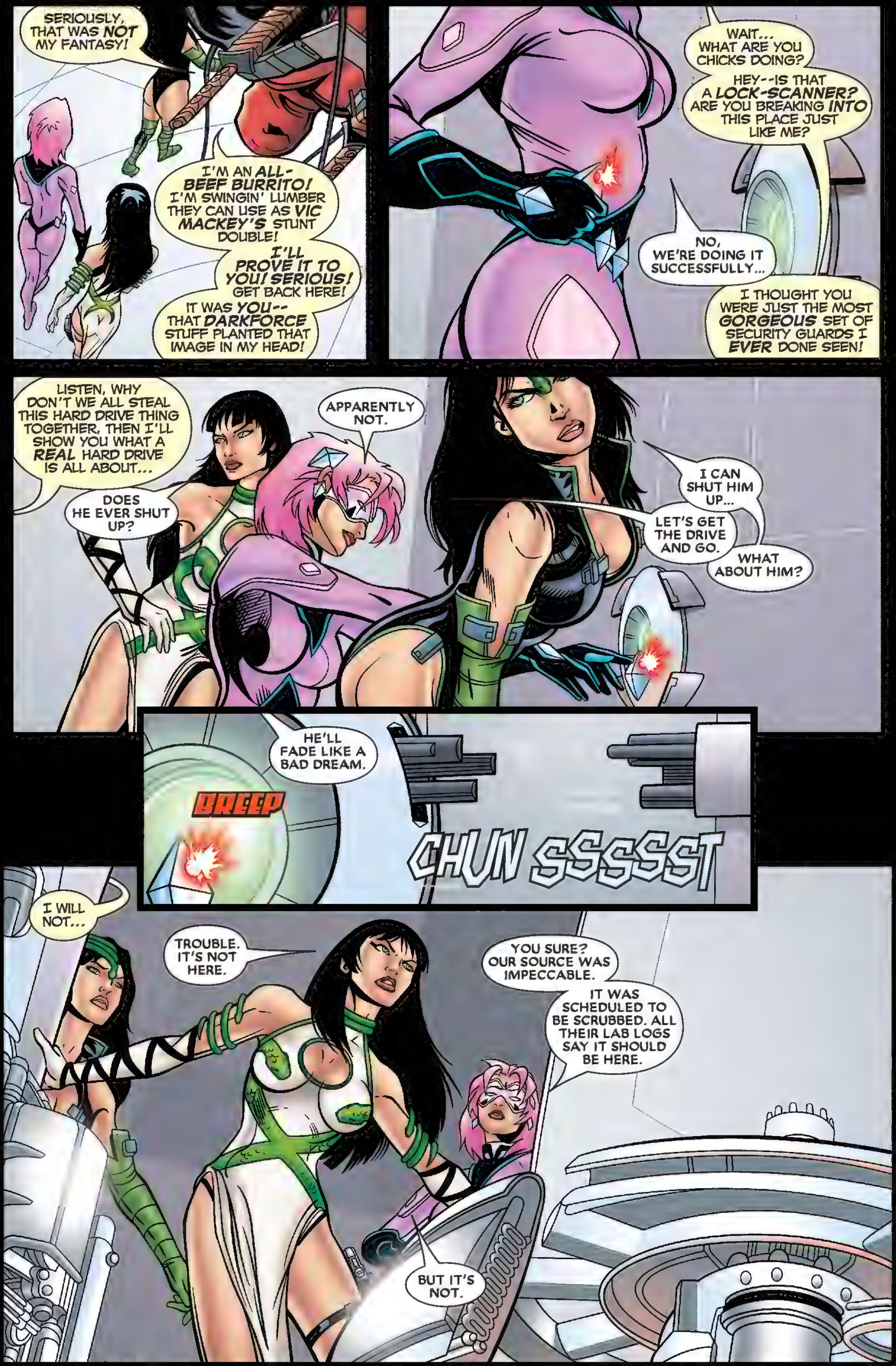

THIS IS ONE INCREDIBLY WHITE ROOM.
THIS ROOM IS INCREDIBLY WHITE ENOUGH FOR THE KLAN TO HIDE IN...
CLEAN ENOUGH FOR **FELIX UNGER** TO LICK THE FLOORS.
I FEEL CONSPICUOUS IN A HIGHLY UNPROFESSIONAL MANNER.
YOU **SHOULD...**
OOPA...
OW!
THAT IS A TOTALLY UNFAIR AND UNPROVOKED ATTACK! I'M THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO DO THAT!

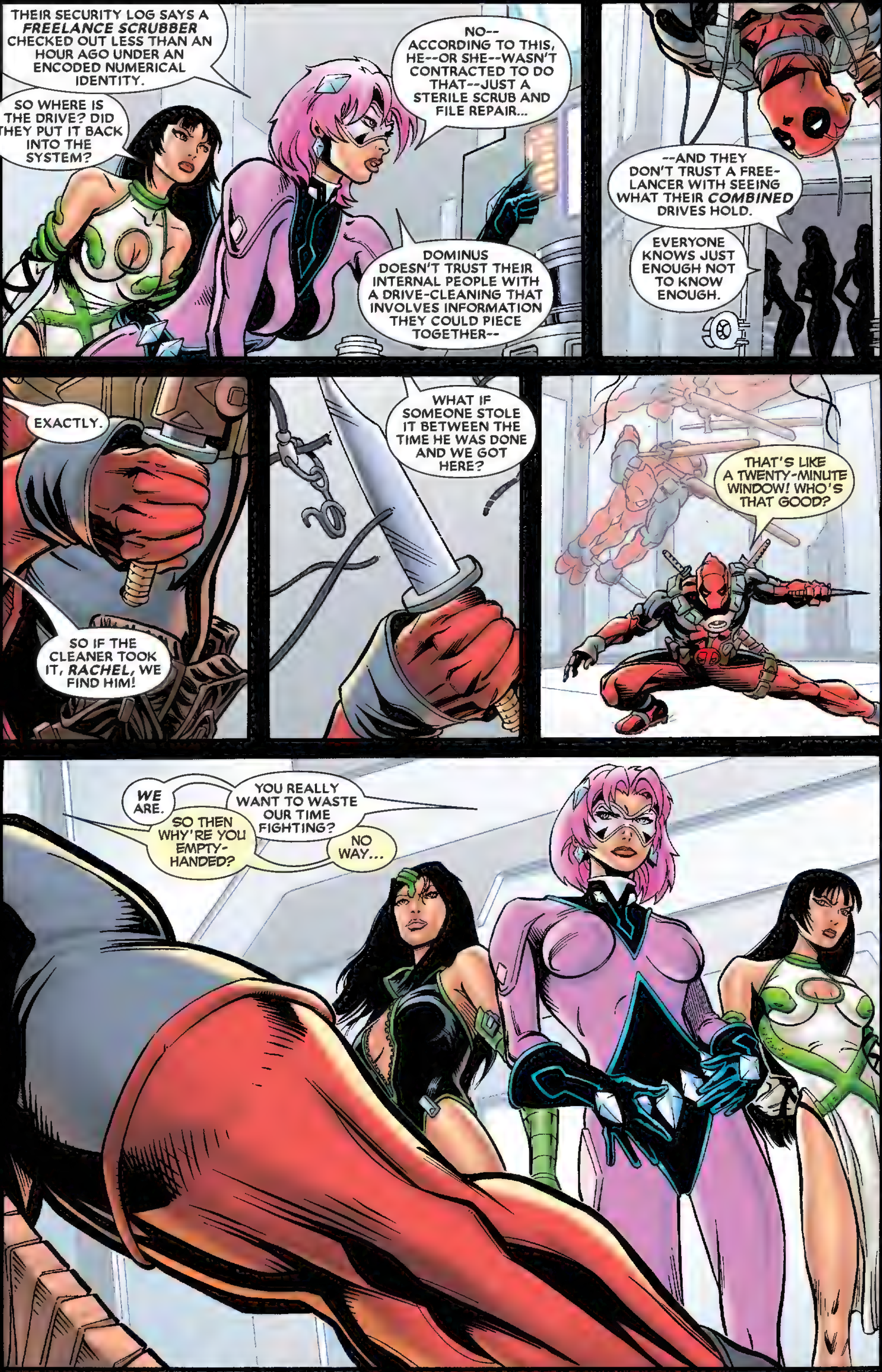

ETHICS EVOLVE WITH THE TIMES. CHEATING IS ALLOWED.
YOU ALMOST LOOK FAMILIAR. DID I SPIN YOU LIKE A BEANIE PROPELLER AND LEAVE YOU IN A MOTEL IN DUBUQUE?
IF YOU DID, SHE'S OUT OF THE GROUP!
OWWW!
THAT REALLY STUNG! WHAT IS YOUR MALFUNCTION, YOU BI--
DON'T SAY IT.
NO... WHY DON'T YOU EXPLAIN IT TO ME...
BISCUIT. I WAS GOING TO SAY BISCUIT. SWEET, DULCET, SOFT-ON-THE-INSIDE, CRACKER BARREL BISCUIT.
AND THE SMOKY BLACK JELL-O--VERY EFFECTIVE--IF YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING...
WELL, BY EFFECTIVE, I MEAN YOUR ACTIONS ARE QUITE SUCCESSFULLY DIRECTING COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF BLOOD TO QUICKLY RUSH TO MY--
OKAY, WHO SCRAMBLED ALL MY INNER EAR FLUID--?
SUCCUMB TO YOUR DEEPEST... DARKEST... *DESIRE...*
FUNNY BONE-FLAVORED BEER?
NO, I GOT DARKER, I JUST KNOW IT...THERE ARE SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM...

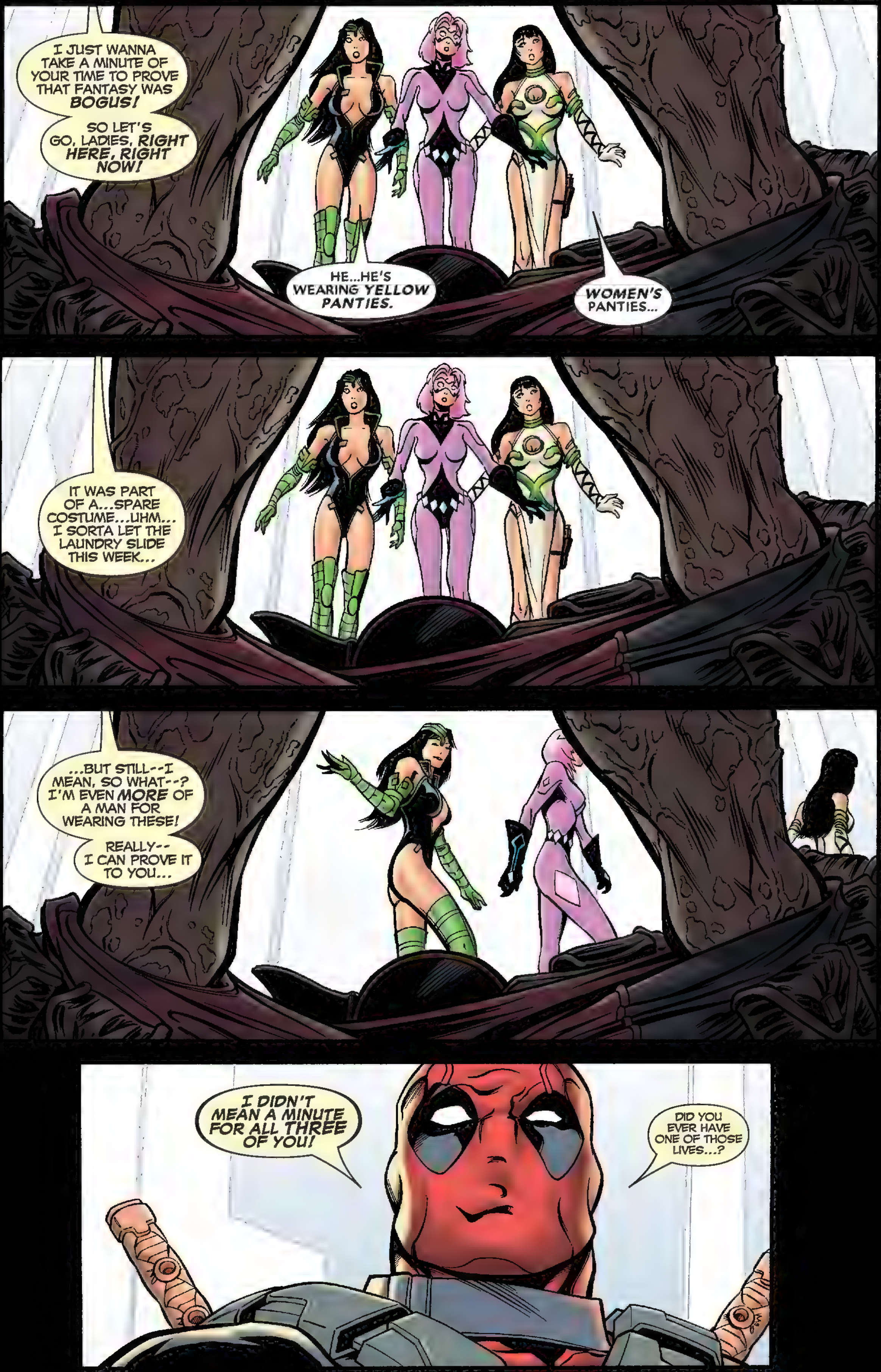

I SMELL THE OCEAN AND SUNTAN LOTION...
...THIS ISN'T THE ONE WHERE I EVISCERATE ANNETTE FUNICELLO WITH FRANKIE AVALON'S TOENAILS, IS IT?
OH
OY
HMM. THAT FEELS GOOD, *WADE*.
COULD YOU WORK ON THE RIGHT OBLIQUE.
OW. YES. RIGHT THERE.
CABLE'S UTOPIAN ISLAND HAVEN OF PROVIDENCE. SOUTH PACIFIC.
"SOLDIER FROM THE FUTURE FINDS HAPPINESS AS A METROSEXUAL," FILM AT ELEVEN.
YOU TRY LUGGING TWO HUNDRED EXTRA POUNDS OF *TECHNO-ORGANICS* ALL DAY LONG WITHOUT FEELING SORE ALL THE TIME.
POINT TAKEN. SORRY, *NATHAN*. SO--TODAY'S AGENDA...

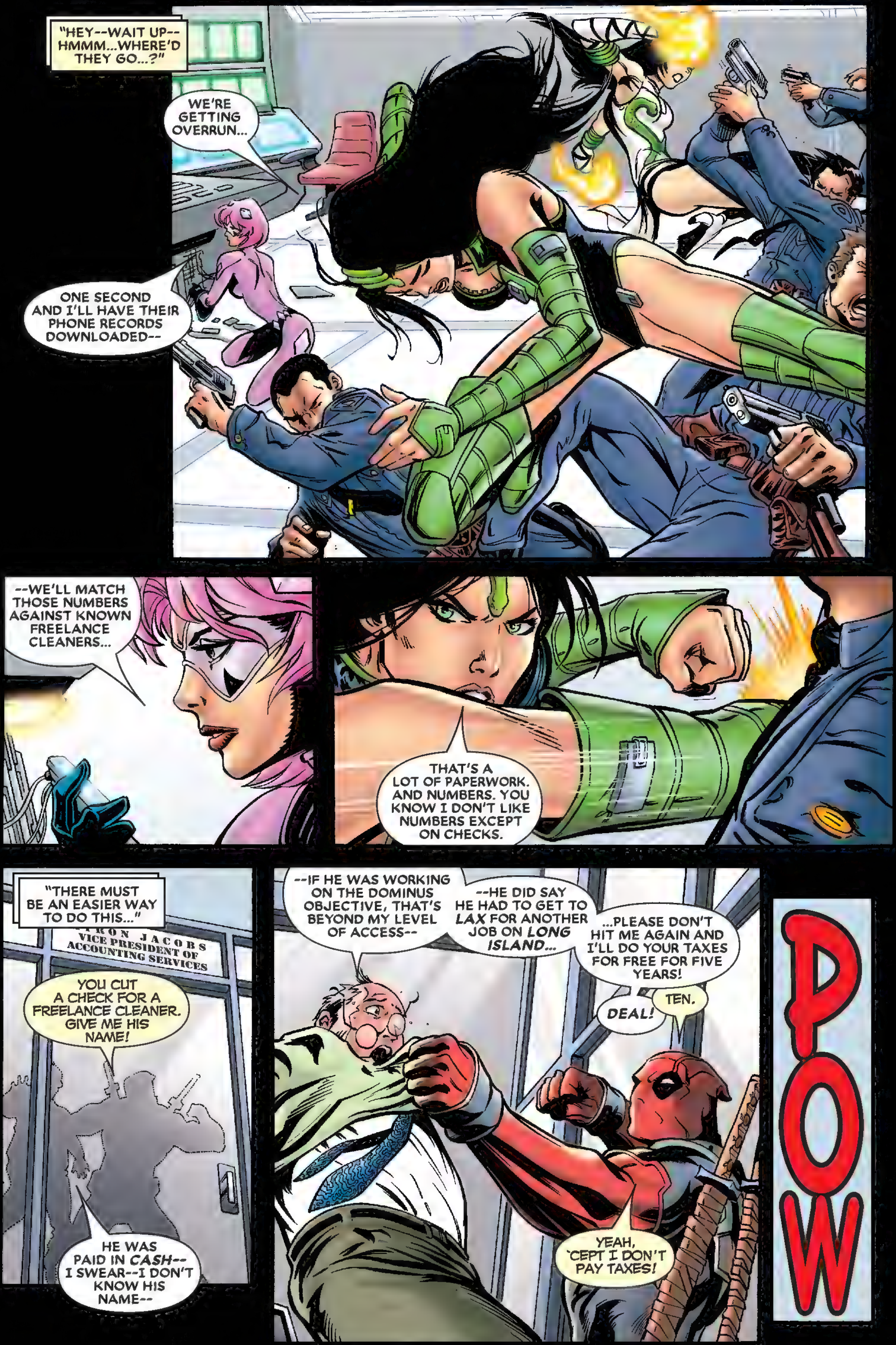

TRADE MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS IN ONE HOUR.
JOHANN KRIEK WANTS TO MEET REGARDING IMMIGRATION QUOTAS.
SCHEDULE HIM FOR TONIGHT, *IRENE*, BUT I'VE TOLD HIM, NO QUOTAS.
NATE, WE'RE GOING TO RUN OUT OF LIVABLE SPACE.
MS. MERRYWEATHER, NEED I REMIND YOU THAT WE'RE AN ISLAND MADE OUT OF *SPARE PARTS?*
WE'LL JUST FIND A WAY TO ADD A PIECE HERE OR THERE.
TO WHAT END?
LOST THAT *MIND-READING* TALENT, REMEMBER? CAN YOU ELABORATE?
HOW MANY PEOPLE? HOW LARGE AN ISLAND?
AS MANY AS WANT TO COME TO FORGE A *NEW FUTURE* AND AS LARGE AS IT NEEDS TO BE TO ACCOMMODATE THEM.
I WAS A *REPORTER* BEFORE I BECAME YOUR DE FACTO *CHIEF OF STAFF*, NATE.
I STILL HAVE A LOT OF SOURCES AND CONTACTS OUT IN THE "REAL WORLD."
AND WHATEVER MIGHT THEY BE SAYING ABOUT US?
YOU PROMISED THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS YOU WOULD *LAY LOW.*
YOU TOLD ME YOU WOULDN'T BEGIN TO *AGITATE* THEM ALL OVER AGAIN.
THEY THINK THE NON-STOP FLOW OF PEOPLE TO PROVIDENCE IS AN AGITATION.
THEY CONTINUE TO COME OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.
WHILE YOU BOMBARD INVITATIONS ACROSS EVERY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA OUTLET WILLING TO PLAY YOUR MESSAGE.

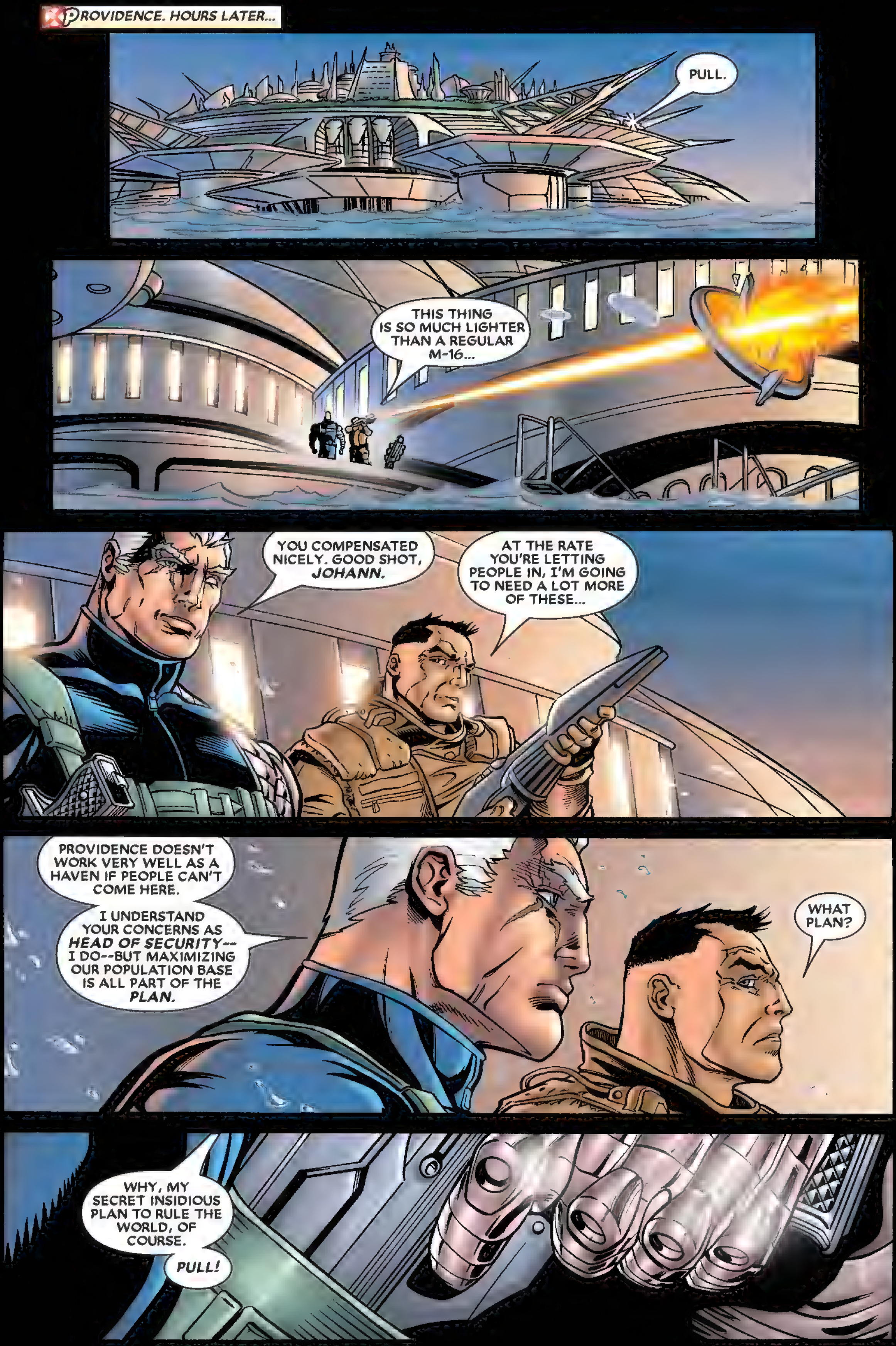

WELL, WHEN YOU'VE LOST YOUR TELEPATHIC ABILITIES, MORE *CONVENTIONAL* METHODS OF COMMUNICATION ARE REQUIRED...
NATE, IT'S BEEN A FEW MONTHS SINCE YOU TURNED YOURSELF INTO A *"BURNT OFFERING"* FOR THE WORLD, BUT YOUR GRACE PERIOD IS RUNNING OUT.
THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS ARE GOING TO LOSE THEIR PATIENCE WITH YOU...
AND BY THE TIME THEY DO, THEY WILL BE TOO *LATE* TO LEARN...
"...THAT I LOST PATIENCE WITH THEM *LONG* BEFORE THAT..."
NATE...CAN I USE *WD-40* ON YOUR LEFT SHOULDER...?
UHM... UH...WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
DID I SAY ANY OF THAT OUT LOUD?
I GUESS I DID.

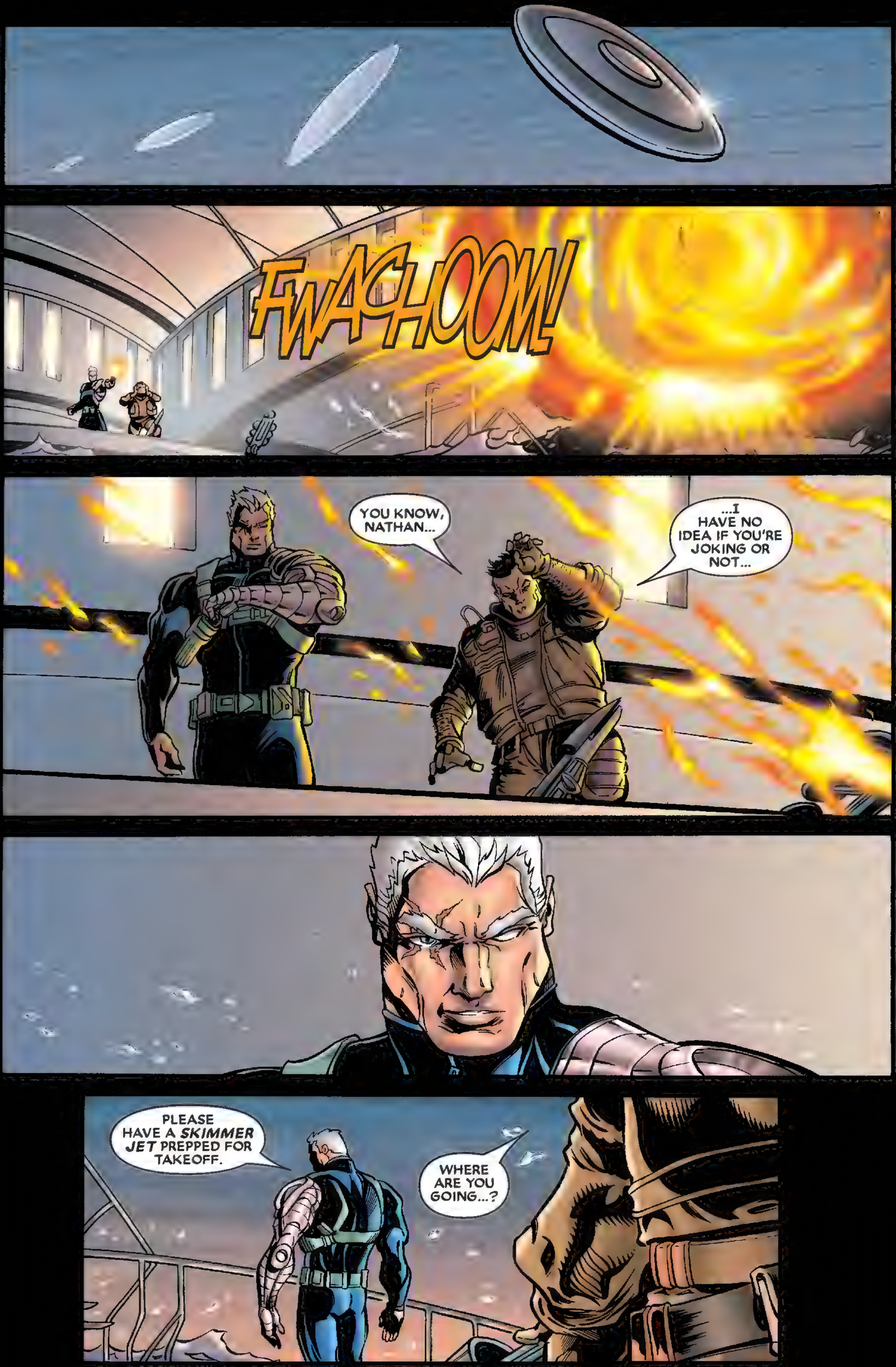

SERIOUSLY, THAT WAS **NOT** MY FANTASY!
I'M AN **ALL-BEEF BURRITO!** I'M SWINGIN' LUMBER THEY CAN USE AS **VIC MACKEY'S** STUNT DOUBLE!
I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU! SERIOUS! GET BACK HERE!
IT WAS **YOU--** THAT **DARKFORCE** STUFF PLANTED THAT IMAGE IN MY HEAD!
WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU CHICKS DOING?
HEY--IS THAT A **LOCK-SCANNER?** ARE YOU BREAKING **INTO** THIS PLACE JUST LIKE ME?
NO, WE'RE DOING IT SUCCESSFULLY...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST THE MOST **GORGEOUS** SET OF SECURITY GUARDS I **EVER** DONE SEEN!
LISTEN, WHY DON'T WE ALL STEAL THIS HARD DRIVE THING TOGETHER, THEN I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT A **REAL** HARD DRIVE IS ALL ABOUT...
DOES HE EVER SHUT UP?
APPARENTLY NOT.
I CAN SHUT HIM UP...
LET'S GET THE DRIVE AND GO.
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HE'LL FADE LIKE A BAD DREAM.
BREEP
CHUN SSSSST
I WILL NOT...
TROUBLE. IT'S NOT HERE.
YOU SURE? OUR SOURCE WAS IMPECCABLE.
IT WAS SCHEDULED TO BE SCRUBBED. ALL THEIR LAB LOGS SAY IT SHOULD BE HERE.
BUT IT'S NOT.

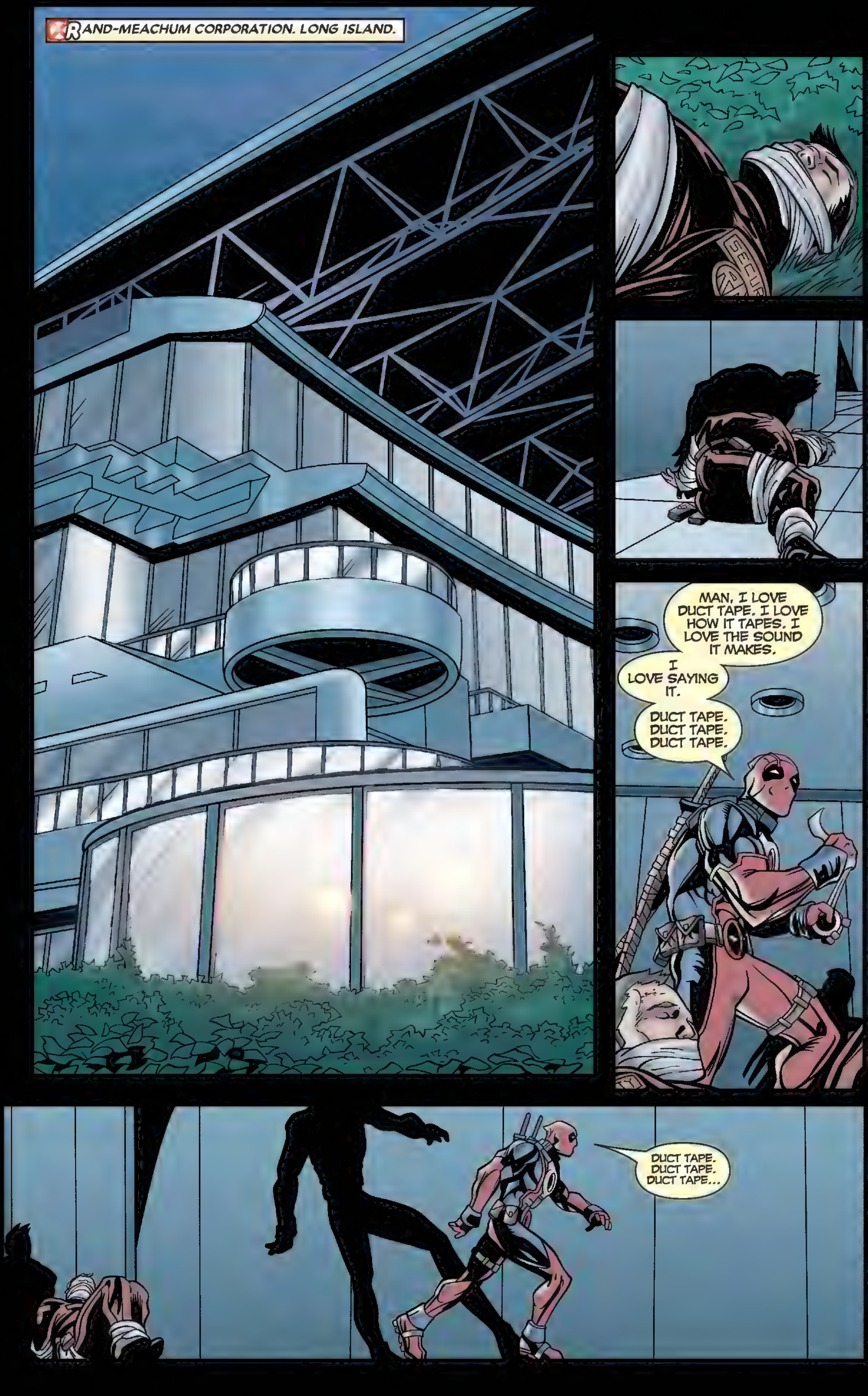

THEIR SECURITY LOG SAYS A *FREELANCE SCRUBBER* CHECKED OUT LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO UNDER AN ENCODED NUMERICAL IDENTITY.
SO WHERE IS THE DRIVE? DID THEY PUT IT BACK INTO THE SYSTEM?
NO-- ACCORDING TO THIS, HE--OR SHE--WASN'T CONTRACTED TO DO THAT--JUST A STERILE SCRUB AND FILE REPAIR...
DOMINUS DOESN'T TRUST THEIR INTERNAL PEOPLE WITH A DRIVE-CLEANING THAT INVOLVES INFORMATION THEY COULD PIECE TOGETHER--
--AND THEY DON'T TRUST A FREE-LANCER WITH SEEING WHAT THEIR *COMBINED* DRIVES HOLD.
EVERYONE KNOWS JUST ENOUGH NOT TO KNOW ENOUGH.
EXACTLY.
SO IF THE CLEANER TOOK IT, *RACHEL*, WE FIND HIM!
WHAT IF SOMEONE STOLE IT BETWEEN THE TIME HE WAS DONE AND WE GOT HERE?
THAT'S LIKE A TWENTY-MINUTE WINDOW! WHO'S THAT GOOD?
WE ARE.
YOU REALLY WANT TO WASTE OUR TIME FIGHTING?
SO THEN WHY'RE YOU EMPTY-HANDED?
NO WAY...

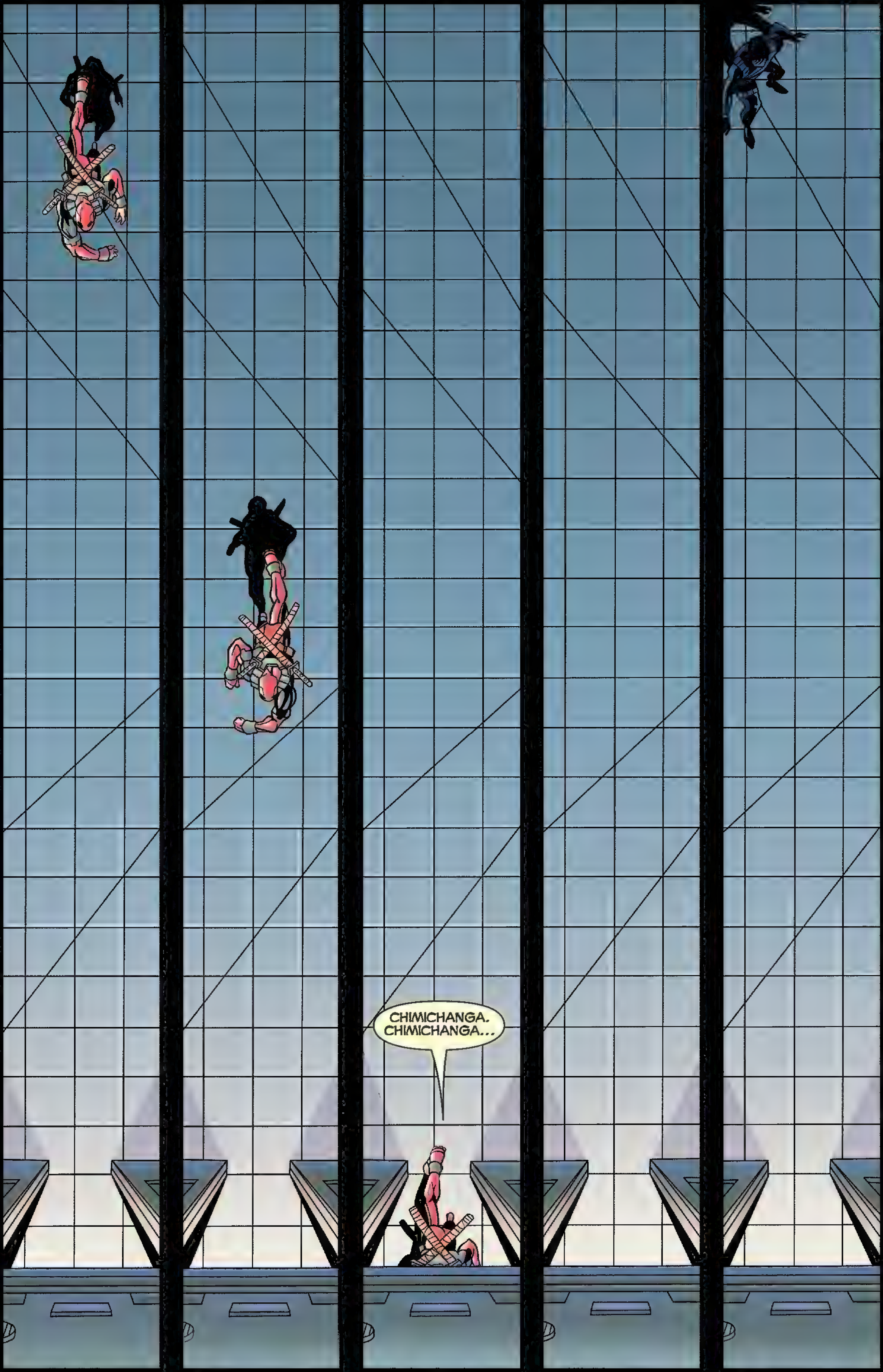

I JUST WANNA TAKE A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME TO PROVE THAT FANTASY WAS *BOGUS!*
SO LET'S GO, LADIES, *RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!*
HE...HE'S WEARING *YELLOW PANTIES.*
WOMEN'S PANTIES...
IT WAS PART OF A...SPARE COSTUME...UHM... I SORTA LET THE LAUNDRY SLIDE THIS WEEK...
...BUT STILL--I MEAN, SO WHAT--? I'M EVEN *MORE* OF A MAN FOR WEARING THESE!
REALLY-- I CAN PROVE IT TO YOU...
I DIDN'T MEAN A MINUTE FOR ALL THREE OF YOU!
DID YOU EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE LIVES...?

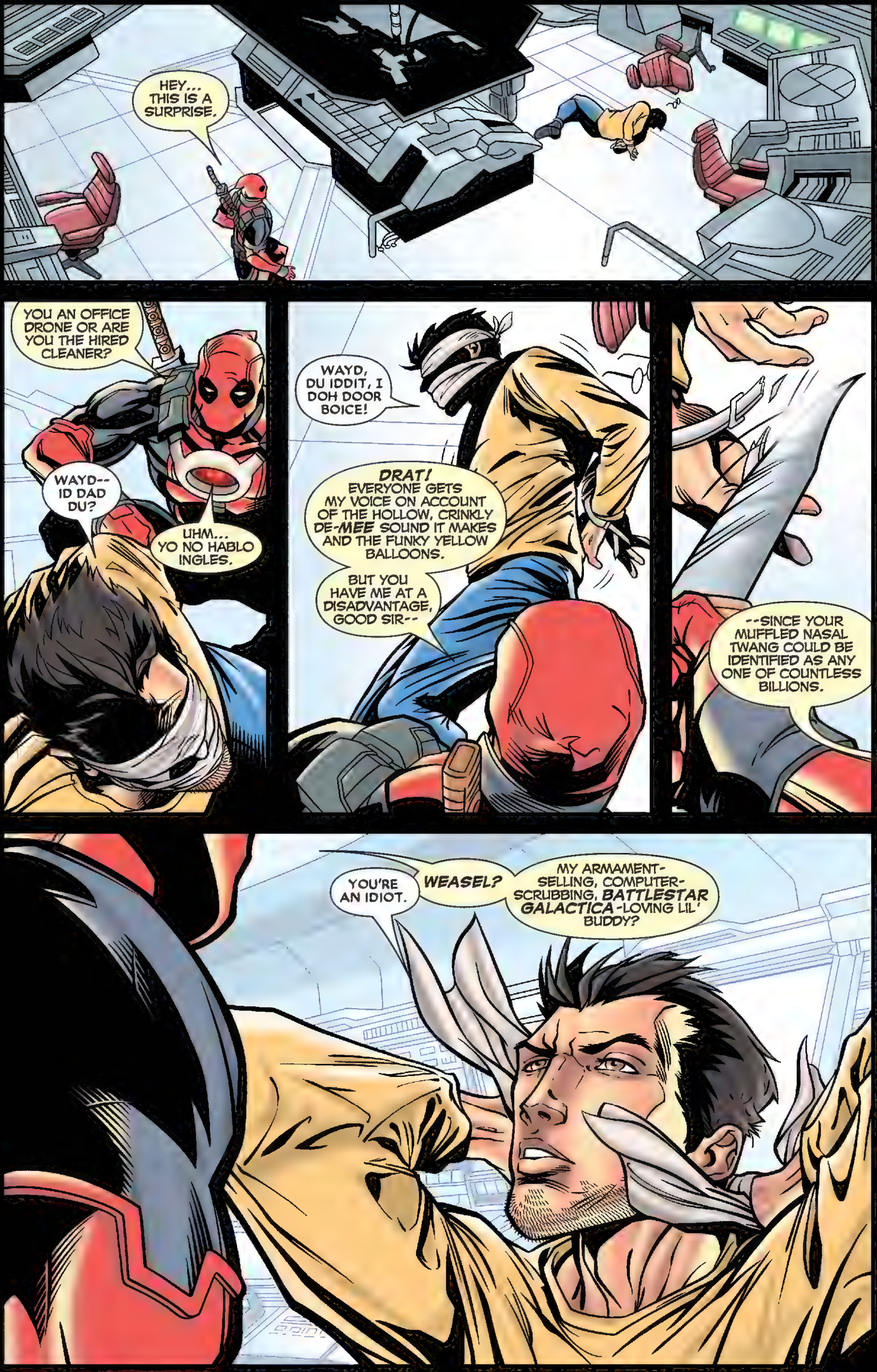

"HEY--WAIT UP-- HMMM...WHERE'D THEY GO...?"
WE'RE GETTING OVERRUN...
ONE SECOND AND I'LL HAVE THEIR PHONE RECORDS DOWNLOADED--
--WE'LL MATCH THOSE NUMBERS AGAINST KNOWN FREELANCE CLEANERS...
THAT'S A LOT OF PAPERWORK. AND NUMBERS. YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE NUMBERS EXCEPT ON CHECKS.
"THERE MUST BE AN EASIER WAY TO DO THIS..."
RON JACOBS VICE PRESIDENT OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES
YOU CUT A CHECK FOR A FREELANCE CLEANER. GIVE ME HIS NAME!
HE WAS PAID IN *CASH*-- I SWEAR--I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME--
--IF HE WAS WORKING ON THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE, THAT'S BEYOND MY LEVEL OF ACCESS--
--HE DID SAY HE HAD TO GET TO *LAX* FOR ANOTHER JOB ON *LONG ISLAND*...
...PLEASE DON'T HIT ME AGAIN AND I'LL DO YOUR TAXES FOR FREE FOR FIVE YEARS!
TEN.
DEAL!
YEAH, 'CEPT I DON'T PAY TAXES!
POW

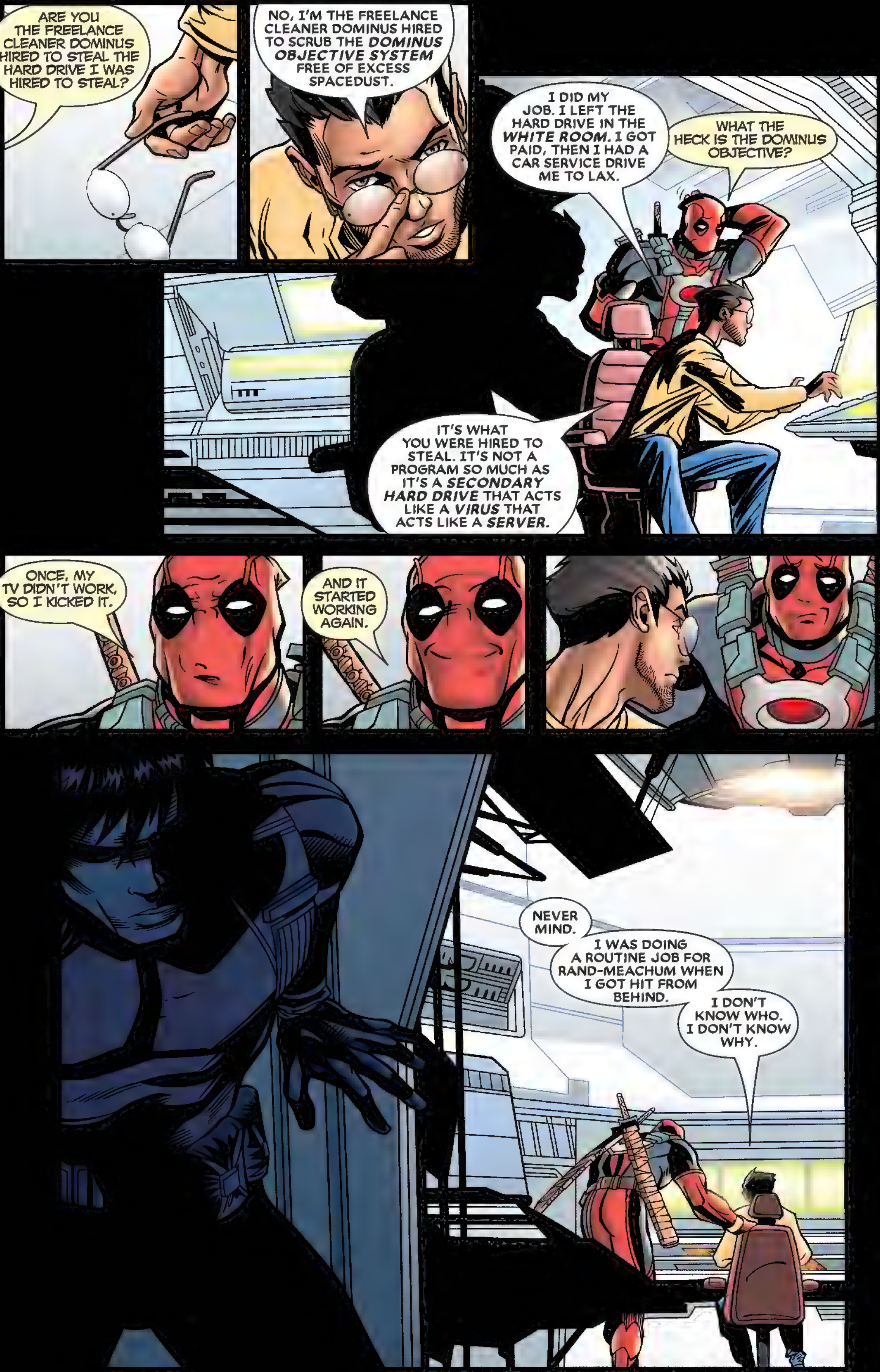

PROVIDENCE. HOURS LATER...
PULL.
THIS THING IS SO MUCH LIGHTER THAN A REGULAR M-16...
YOU COMPENSATED NICELY. GOOD SHOT, *JOHANN.*
AT THE RATE YOU'RE LETTING PEOPLE IN, I'M GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE OF THESE...
PROVIDENCE DOESN'T WORK VERY WELL AS A HAVEN IF PEOPLE CAN'T COME HERE.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS AS *HEAD OF SECURITY--* I DO--BUT MAXIMIZING OUR POPULATION BASE IS ALL PART OF THE *PLAN.*
WHAT PLAN?
WHY, MY SECRET INSIDIOUS PLAN TO RULE THE WORLD, OF COURSE.
PULL!

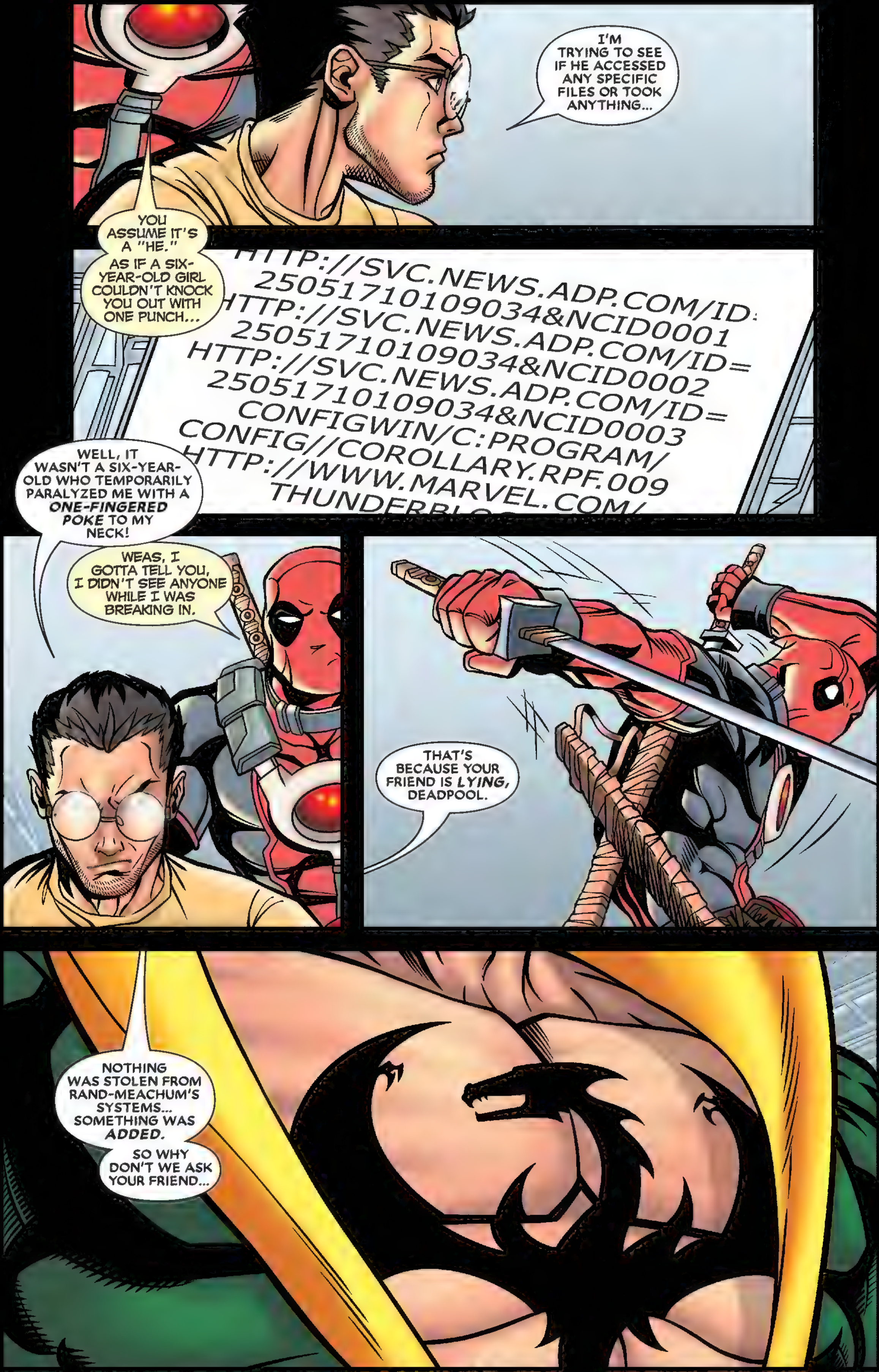

FWACHOOM!
YOU KNOW, NATHAN...
...I HAVE NO IDEA IF YOU'RE JOKING OR NOT...
PLEASE HAVE A *SKIMMER JET* PREPPED FOR TAKEOFF.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING...?


RAND-MEACHUM CORPORATION. LONG ISLAND.
MAN, I LOVE DUCT TAPE. I LOVE HOW IT TAPES. I LOVE THE SOUND IT MAKES.
I LOVE SAYING IT.
DUCT TAPE. DUCT TAPE. DUCT TAPE.
DUCT TAPE. DUCT TAPE. DUCT TAPE...


CHIMICHANGA. CHIMICHANGA...


HEY... THIS IS A SURPRISE.
YOU AN OFFICE DRONE OR ARE YOU THE HIRED CLEANER?
WAYD-- ID DAD DU?
UHM... YO NO HABLO INGLES.
WAYD, DU IDDIT, I DOH DOOR BOICE!
DRAT! EVERYONE GETS MY VOICE ON ACCOUNT OF THE HOLLOW, CRINKLY DE-MEE SOUND IT MAKES AND THE FUNKY YELLOW BALLOONS.
BUT YOU HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE, GOOD SIR--
--SINCE YOUR MUFFLED NASAL TWANG COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS ANY ONE OF COUNTLESS BILLIONS.
WEASEL?
MY ARMAMENT-SELLING, COMPUTER-SCRUBBING, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA-LOVING LIL' BUDDY?
YOU'RE AN IDIOT.


ARE YOU THE FREELANCE CLEANER DOMINUS HIRED TO STEAL THE HARD DRIVE I WAS HIRED TO STEAL?
NO, I'M THE FREELANCE CLEANER DOMINUS HIRED TO SCRUB THE *DOMINUS OBJECTIVE SYSTEM* FREE OF EXCESS SPACEDUST.
I DID MY JOB. I LEFT THE HARD DRIVE IN THE *WHITE ROOM.* I GOT PAID, THEN I HAD A CAR SERVICE DRIVE ME TO LAX.
WHAT THE HECK IS THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE?
IT'S WHAT YOU WERE HIRED TO STEAL. IT'S NOT A PROGRAM SO MUCH AS IT'S A *SECONDARY HARD DRIVE* THAT ACTS LIKE A *VIRUS* THAT ACTS LIKE A *SERVER.*
ONCE, MY TV DIDN'T WORK, SO I KICKED IT.
AND IT STARTED WORKING AGAIN.
NEVER MIND.
I WAS DOING A ROUTINE JOB FOR RAND-MEACHUM WHEN I GOT HIT FROM BEHIND.
I DON'T KNOW WHO. I DON'T KNOW WHY.


I'M TRYING TO SEE IF HE ACCESSED ANY SPECIFIC FILES OR TOOK ANYTHING...
YOU ASSUME IT'S A "HE."
AS IF A SIX-YEAR-OLD GIRL COULDN'T KNOCK YOU OUT WITH ONE PUNCH...
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HTTP://SVC.NEWS.ADP.COM/ID=
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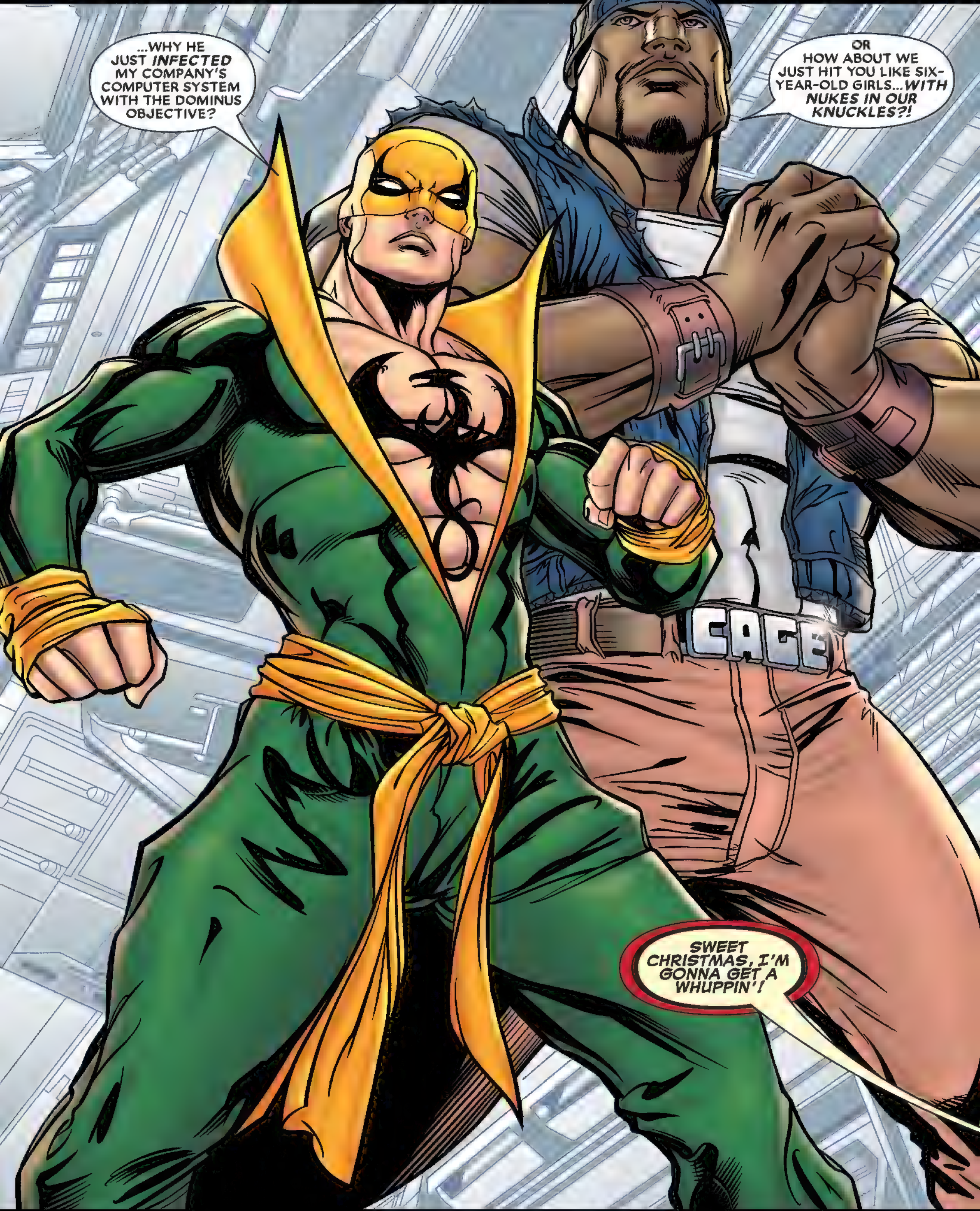
HTTP://WWW.MARVEL.COM/
THUNDERBL
WELL, IT WASN'T A SIX-YEAR-OLD WHO TEMPORARILY PARALYZED ME WITH A ***ONE-FINGERED POKE*** TO MY NECK!
WEAS, I GOTTA TELL YOU, I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE WHILE I WAS BREAKING IN.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR FRIEND IS *LYING*, DEADPOOL.
NOTHING WAS STOLEN FROM RAND-MEACHUM'S SYSTEMS... SOMETHING WAS *ADDED*.
SO WHY DON'T WE ASK YOUR FRIEND...


...WHY HE JUST *INFECTED* MY COMPANY'S COMPUTER SYSTEM WITH THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE?
OR HOW ABOUT WE JUST HIT YOU LIKE SIX-YEAR-OLD GIRLS... *WITH NUKES IN OUR KNUCKLES?!*
CAGE
SWEET CHRISTMAS, I'M GONNA GET A WHUPPIN'!

DEAR DEADPOOL

Hi, everyone. Cable here. I've finally been able to convince Nicole to let me answer the letters. I might not be as diabolically funny as Deadpool, but I assure you I'll answer every letter honestly and politely.

"Hey, Nate--look over there--Apocalypse is comin' back!"

He is not.

"He is, serious!"

You're just trying to distract me so you can answer the letters, Wade.

"No, really--just ask Nicole!"

...Okay, fine--Nicole--is Apocalypse really coming back?

"Uhm--Nathan--hi--sorry, this is weird. I'm not used to breaking the fourth wall. I'm a little dizzy--losing focus--like listening to one of Ralph's stories for six days straight--wait--okay--about Apocalypse, it looks like it might be happening. I mean, I'm sure we won't have any solid details until about three weeks after our tie-in issue ships, but the answer is yes."

Oh. Okay. Uhm... excuse me, everybody, I have to go prepare for another cataclysmic world-shattering, emotionally exhausting storyline...

Oooh baby, yeah! Deadpool here and I get to answer the letters again! Ga'head, ga'head...

Hey, Deadpool,

I think we should take our act on the road, what do you think? Deadpool and Tomato Assassin, we can be part-time mercs and become full-time undercover agents to find out the whereabouts of Mary Kate and Ashley. You know that warrant won't keep them away from us forever! I think we'd be a good team. You'd take the Jean Grey costume from *C&DP* #9, and I'd wear Storm's costume. "The Men from the Pageant" has a certain ring to it, don't you think?

Oh, and it's about time you made your move on Siryn. You know she can't resist the Merc with a Mouth, and if you don't make your move I'll have to, and then we'll have to fight, and I'll distract you by pointing and shouting "Bea Arthur!," but then you'll nail me in the nether regions, and I'll have lost my only weapon as it'll have gone to the higher frequencies. I'll give you a beer, rid the world of some clowns and we'll watch reruns of *Manimal*. But I think I'll stick to the team idea instead.

To the creators: you guys are doing an amazing job, the combination of Cable and Deadpool (especially Deadpool) is great, and every time I pick this up I laugh so loud--especially at the Jean Grey costume incident in C&DP #9, that was so funny I nearly cried. The art and storylines are great, and work for the perfect combination. Keep up the good work...oh yeah, and *Essential Deadpool* is a great idea!

Bodyslide by one,
Alex Chessun

So, Alex, I'm not 100% sure you get that fine line between reality and THIS IS A COMIC BOOK, YOU CORKSCREW! Other than that little bounce you got going back and forth over the fine line, we're cool, but I really don't want to see you in any of Storm's costumes.

As far as *Essential Deadpool* goes, Marvel will probably get around to giving me n' Nate our own *Essential* volumes as soon as they realize they're still publishing our book. Which means don't hold your breath. Seriously, *Essential War of the Worlds*, but not *Essential Moi?* I just don't get it...

Okay,

So I've never been a big fan of Fabian, maybe because I can't figure out how to say his name (heck, spelling it is hard), but also because he's never grabbed me with his writing. Until now.

I was frankly in awe of this title. He didn't step back and make it *X-Force*, or completely turn it into a Deadpool book. The balance between the characters reminds me of Bud and Lou. Just don't do a "Cable and Wade Meet Frankenstein" issue.

I expected this story to bond them together on less of a molecular level, but more of a gene threat and have Cable turn to Deadpool and enlist his help. But I really like how the characters have found a way to not work together, but still find the time to shoot each other.

Anyway thanks.
Ron Lake

Fabian says that those name-pronouncing jokes always go over really well with him, Ron, so keep them up. Nothing like original humor to make us flash our pearly whites. And his bitterness has nothing to do with you not being a big fan of his work, he says. Seriously. I'm sure he means it, even though he's fetal in a corner crying.

Fabian also says it's time to end this response `cause it's not funny enough.

Dear Deadpool,

Did you know my father's name is Wade? Or that his brother's name is Wilson? Wade . . . Wilson . . . I mean, what's up with that? Are you some kind of genetic forebear thrust into the past? (Hey, you're hanging out with Cable lately, so I figure it's not all that improbable.) I mean, my grandfather's name is Palmer, so that can't be it, but he's like 96 years old and still kicking it harsh. Most think it's because he switched from smokin' the pipe to chewing tobaccy, but I gotta wonder if maybe he's got some of that good ole healing factor goin' on. Y'know, Weapon X projects, and what with us living up here in Canada and all.

Well, even if there is no relation, can I call you Grampy anyway? Please?

Darryl Etheridge
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

It really must be something in the water up there, Darryl, or maybe the cold air? I don't know, but you Canucks sure are a bunch of whack-a-doodles.

But on the other hand, your Gramps sounds like a pretty cool guy and he probably took a puck to the face off a Gordie Howe slapshot back in nineteen-ought-six.

And thanks for remindin' me the Weapon X project is in Canada. I might go invade your country or something.

Dear Mr. Deadpool,

First, I'm honored that you take time out of your busy schedule to chat with us fans. You, sir, are a true American hero. The world would be a much better place if we had more people like you in it. Of course there would be less people in the world because I'm sure there would be more killings, but hey, that's the price to pay for witty conversation.

I have to tell you that this is one of the best comics on the market. You and Mr. Cable are truly one of the best odd couples in comics. Fabian has been one of my favorite writers for quite some time. Patrick Zircher is a fantastic artist and really underappreciated.

Anyway I have some numbered questions I know you enjoy so much.

1) When did you first fall in love with Bea Arthur?
2) Any chance your old pal Blind Al will stop by for a visit? Can you at least tell me what she's doing? She's my favorite foul-mouthed old lady ever!!
3) What weak character would you like to show up just so you could beat them up? I love seeing you beat people up.
4) Please get somebody at Marvel to make a Deadpool movie. Live action or animated, I don't care, just make it!!
5) When Mr. Cable was stuck in the body of a child, what precautions did you take to keep him away from a certain pop star? I won't name names but I think you know who I'm talking about. That's all I can think of. Keep up the good work.

Your pal,
James Dillon
Sedalia, MO

Oooh--numbered questions! But first, might I mention, James, that you win The Letter of the Month Award, not just because of the spiffy numbered questions, but because you are truly a visionary whose world-view is rather simpatico to my own. Yes, indeed, the world would be a better place--and a less populated one--if more people were like me! So on to your questions, good sir...

1) **From the very moment she appeared on *All in the Family* and stood up to Archie Bunker. That husky voice. That imposing 6'5" frame. That long purple frock dress/coat thing. Sigh...**
2) **Blind Al came by for a visit already, but she couldn't see it was between issues. Maybe she'll come back when we're all actually on the page. As for where she is? Bumping into furniture somewhere in Dollywood, probably.**
3) **What a great idea! I never thought of that before! There are so many to choose from. Franklin Richards would be fun, long as he's not all cosmic-powered. Those twin babies Scarlet Witch had and forgot about, that would be cool, too, 'cause besides the fact they're not even real, they probably couldn't fight back much. Ooh, maybe Artie from X-Factor. He's a shrimpy bumpy little dweeb.**

   Hey, Nicole--can we do like a whole 4-part arc where I just kick the crap out of small lame-o characters? What? Seriously? Spider Man? He's kinda small, but he's not lame. He's coming up soon?

   Hmm... will Mary Jane be in the book, too, `cause that would be cool...
4) **Okay, I tried putting a gun up to some studio execs' heads, but I was flipped over and crushed with a black booted heel. Those are some tough dudes.**
5) **That would have been a thriller for sure...**

Dear Deadpool,

First dude, I must say you totally rock. Anyway, I have two questions:

1) Back in issue 17, when you were in the House of M universe, you, Cannonball and Siryn had memory of the universe before House of M. But in *Uncanny X-Men* #463, when Rachel and Betsy arrived in the House of M universe they were suddenly transformed into their House of M counterparts. How come that didn't happen to you three?
2) Since this story arc's name is *Enema of the State*, how come there are no references to the Blink-182 album *Enema of the State*? I really thought a pop culture junkie (no, not Quentin Tarantino) like you would've made some comment in the overview or something like that. Anyway, keep up the great work.

Scott J. Bechtel

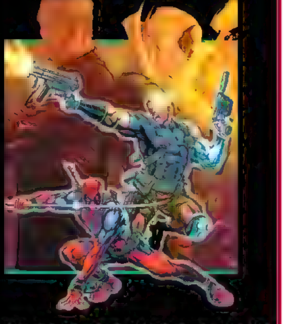
Oooh, numbered questions! But these are tougher. Forcing me to think--body angled in Shatnerian contortions--must prevent--handing out--No-Prize...

1) **We were all linked to Forge's harness which had already traveled to so many alternate Earths that it created an electromagnetic resonance disharmony around us that prevented us from being affected by the world Scarlet Witch had discombobulated. Yeah, Scott, that's it...**

2) **See, I'm only as good a pop culture junkie as the man putting words in my mouth, and as a borderline old coot, Fabian wouldn't know Blink-182 if they jumped up and bit him on the scrotum, so his use of the "Enema of the State" title was simply a parody of Mark Millar's Wolverine arc while also serving to have a subtler, hidden meaning, that only a few people on the Internet Boards have guessed correctly.**

But Boy Genius of the Character Depth Fabian says the meaning will become clear in our 25th issue. Is that the one where I mud-wrestle Mary Jane? No? What's up with our 25th? A gold-sparkly old-fashioned '90s cover that sells like 400,000 copies? No? What do you mean you're not saying yet? Nicole, c'mon...Sigh. She's not talking. When she wants to clam up, she's like a frickin' oyster with Crazy Glue for lips. Most Marvel editors are trained to keep quiet for fear of death. So anyway...

NEXT ISSUE:



We take our Dominus Objective tour on the road as the B.A.D. Girls travel to Hong Kong and we reveal who hired the Cat to steal the computer software. Meanwhile, Nate and I crack the Internet in half. Seriously. And Quesada gets a royalty payment every time we say it! Plus, one of the few villains we have in our rogue's gallery gets blown to smithereens. Which might be one reason we don't have too many villains in our rogue's gallery...

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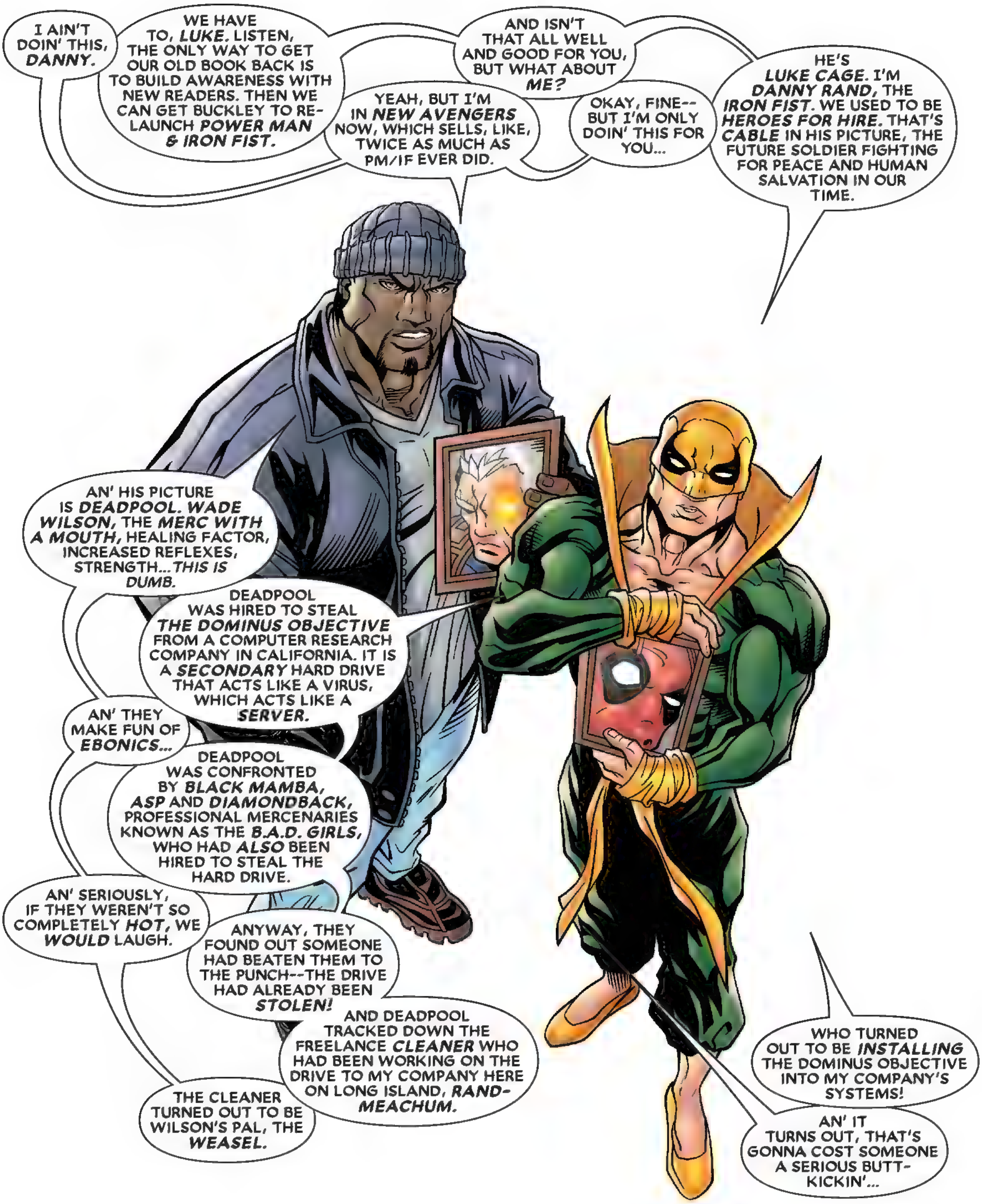
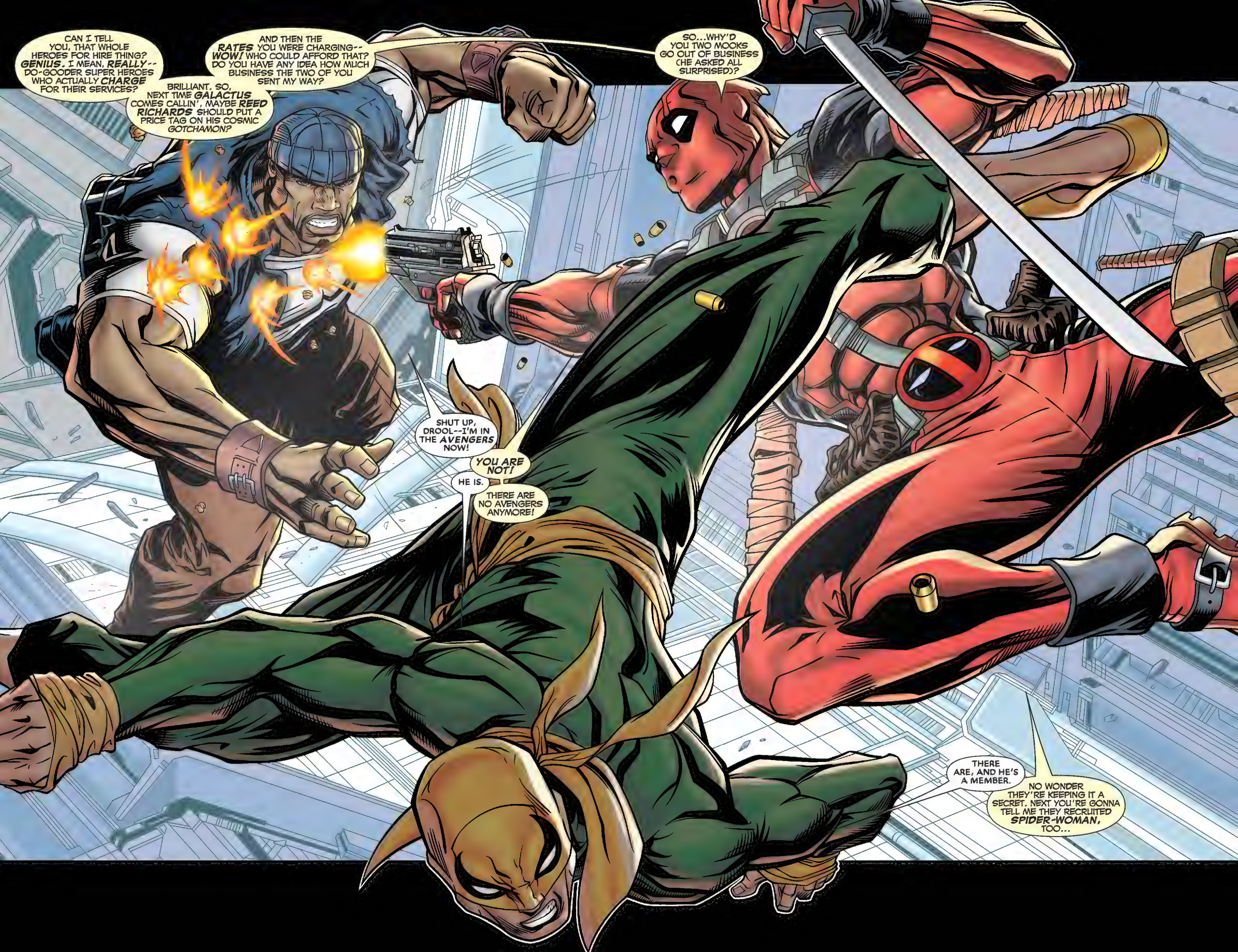
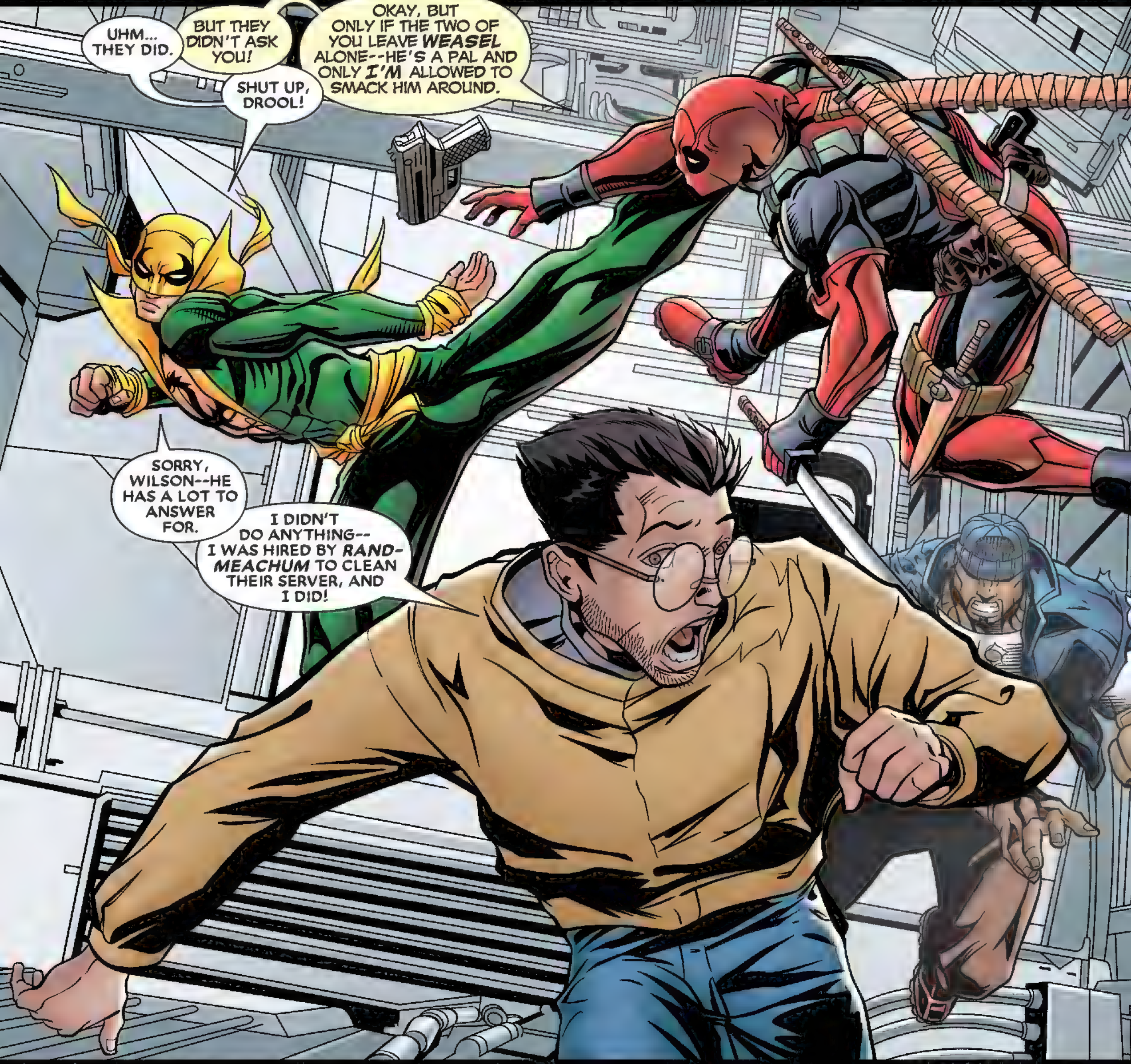
FRIENDLY FIRE

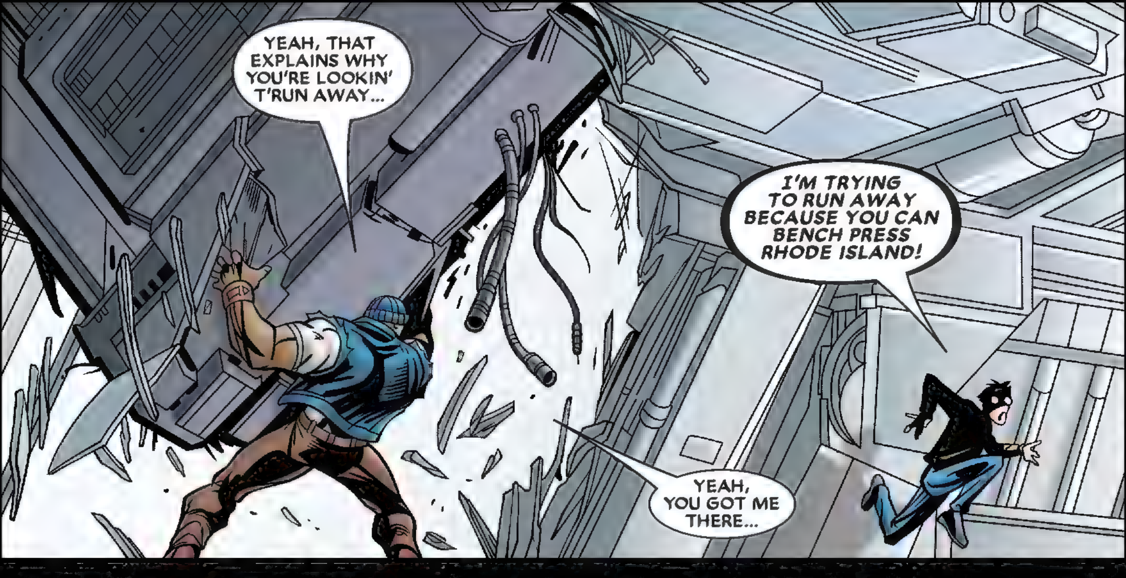
BOSOM BUDDIES

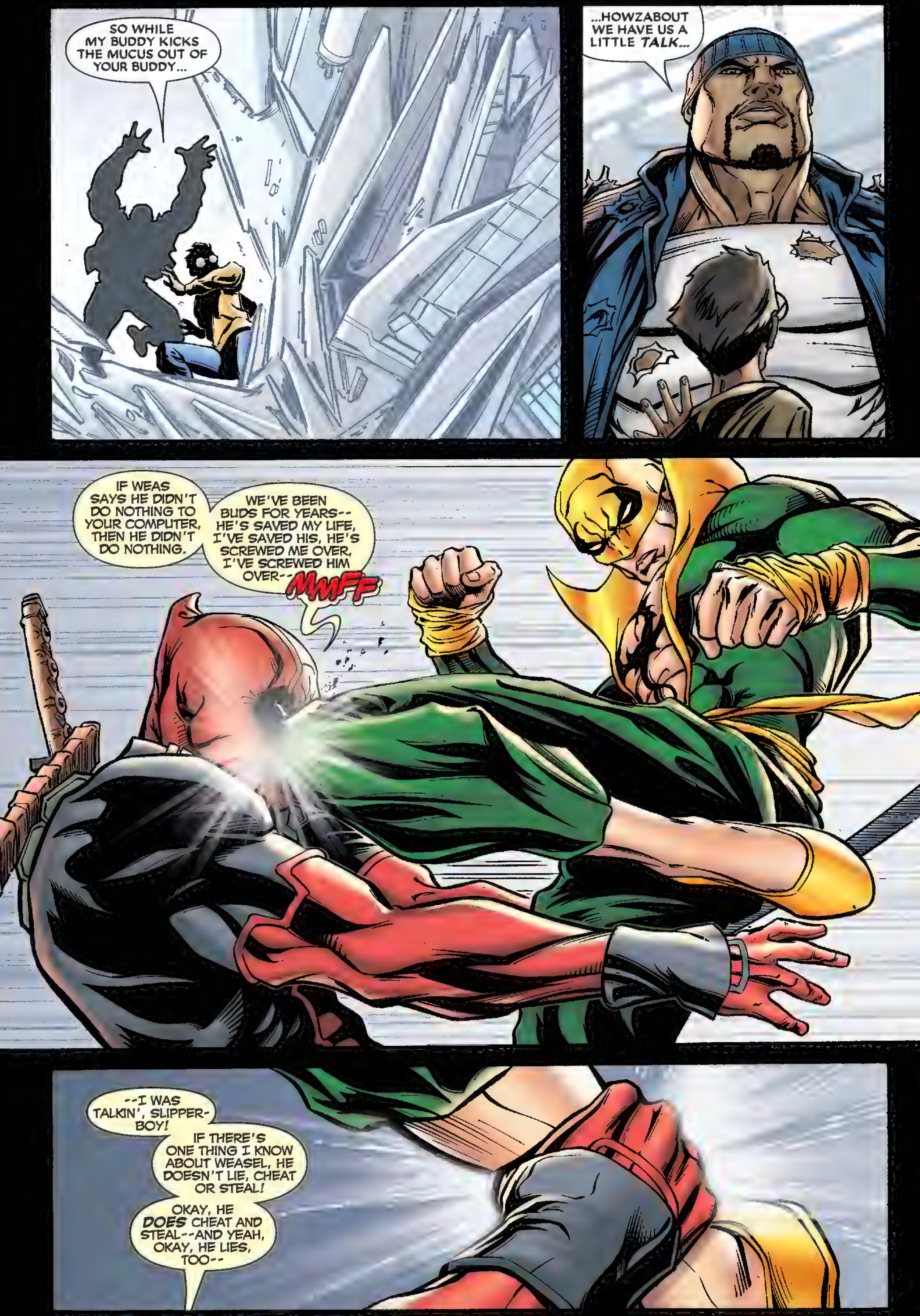
PART 2 OF 4

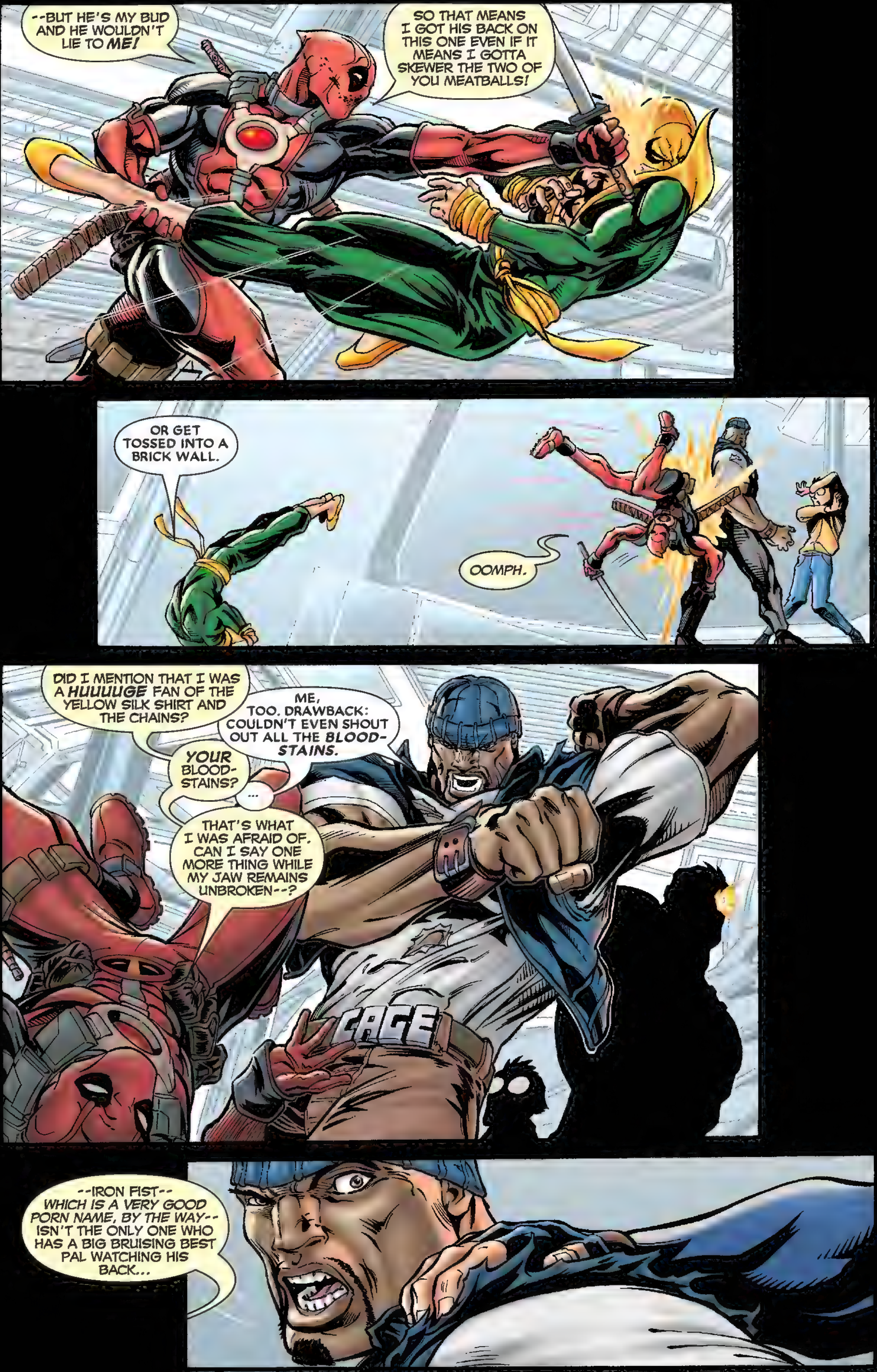

I AIN'T DOIN' THIS, DANNY.
WE HAVE TO, LUKE. LISTEN, THE ONLY WAY TO GET OUR OLD BOOK BACK IS TO BUILD AWARENESS WITH NEW READERS. THEN WE CAN GET BUCKLEY TO RE-LAUNCH POWER MAN & IRON FIST.
YEAH, BUT I'M IN NEW AVENGERS NOW, WHICH SELLS, LIKE, TWICE AS MUCH AS PM/IF EVER DID.
AND ISN'T THAT ALL WELL AND GOOD FOR YOU, BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?
OKAY, FINE-- BUT I'M ONLY DOIN' THIS FOR YOU...
HE'S LUKE CAGE. I'M DANNY RAND, THE IRON FIST. WE USED TO BE HEROES FOR HIRE. THAT'S CABLE IN HIS PICTURE, THE FUTURE SOLDIER FIGHTING FOR PEACE AND HUMAN SALVATION IN OUR TIME.
AN' HIS PICTURE IS DEADPOOL. WADE WILSON, THE MERC WITH A MOUTH, HEALING FACTOR, INCREASED REFLEXES, STRENGTH... THIS IS DUMB.
DEADPOOL WAS HIRED TO STEAL THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE FROM A COMPUTER RESEARCH COMPANY IN CALIFORNIA. IT IS A SECONDARY HARD DRIVE THAT ACTS LIKE A VIRUS, WHICH ACTS LIKE A SERVER.
AN' THEY MAKE FUN OF EBONICS...
DEADPOOL WAS CONFRONTED BY BLACK MAMBA, ASP AND DIAMONDBACK, PROFESSIONAL MERCENARIES KNOWN AS THE B.A.D. GIRLS, WHO HAD ALSO BEEN HIRED TO STEAL THE HARD DRIVE.
AN' SERIOUSLY, IF THEY WEREN'T SO COMPLETELY HOT, WE WOULD LAUGH.
ANYWAY, THEY FOUND OUT SOMEONE HAD BEATEN THEM TO THE PUNCH--THE DRIVE HAD ALREADY BEEN STOLEN!
AND DEADPOOL TRACKED DOWN THE FREELANCE CLEANER WHO HAD BEEN WORKING ON THE DRIVE TO MY COMPANY HERE ON LONG ISLAND, RAND-MEACHUM.
THE CLEANER TURNED OUT TO BE WILSON'S PAL, THE WEASEL.
WHO TURNED OUT TO BE INSTALLING THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE INTO MY COMPANY'S SYSTEMS!
AN' IT TURNS OUT, THAT'S GONNA COST SOMEONE A SERIOUS BUTT-KICKIN'...

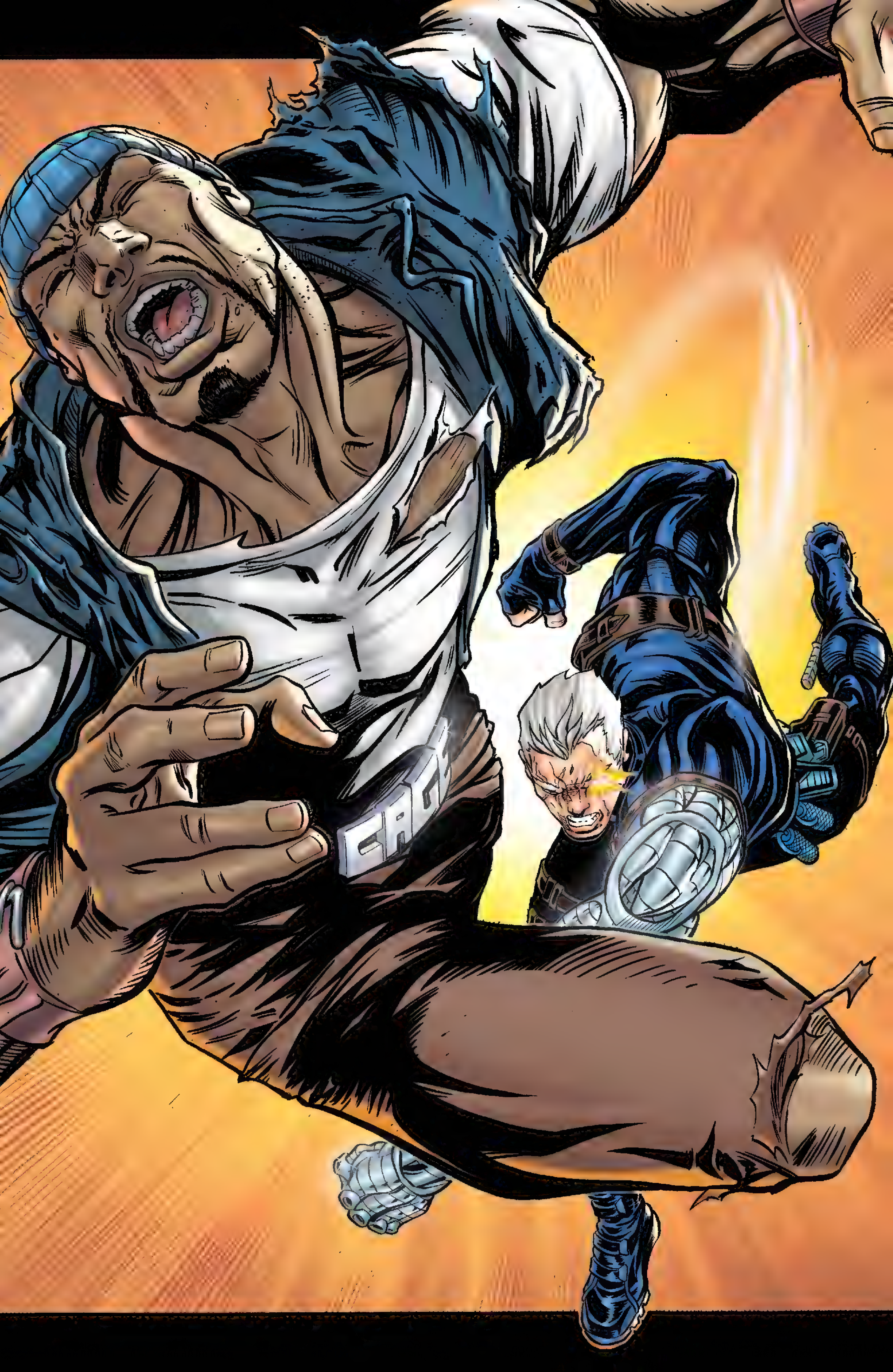

CAN I TELL YOU, THAT WHOLE HEROES FOR HIRE THING? GENIUS. I MEAN, REALLY--DO-GOODER SUPER HEROES WHO ACTUALLY CHARGE FOR THEIR SERVICES?
BRILLIANT. SO, NEXT TIME GALACTUS COMES CALLIN', MAYBE REED RICHARDS SHOULD PUT A PRICE TAG ON HIS COSMIC GOTCHAMON?
AND THEN THE RATES YOU WERE CHARGING-- WOW! WHO COULD AFFORD THAT? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH BUSINESS THE TWO OF YOU SENT MY WAY?
SO...WHY'D YOU TWO MOOKS GO OUT OF BUSINESS (HE ASKED ALL SURPRISED)?
SHUT UP, DROOL--I'M IN THE AVENGERS NOW!
YOU ARE NOT!
HE IS.
THERE ARE NO AVENGERS ANYMORE!
THERE ARE, AND HE'S A MEMBER.
NO WONDER THEY'RE KEEPING IT A SECRET. NEXT YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME THEY RECRUITED SPIDER-WOMAN, TOO...

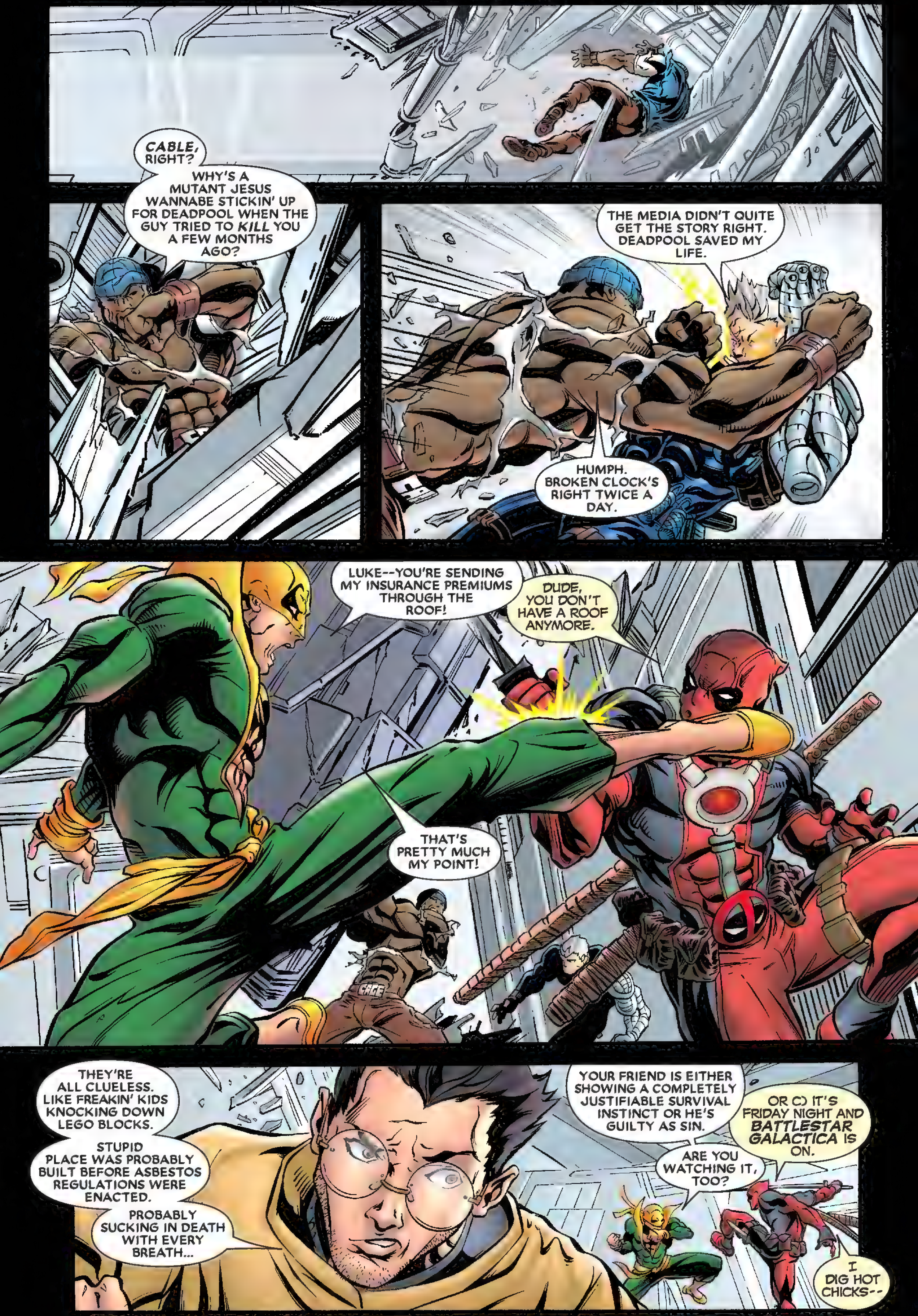

UHM... THEY DID.
BUT THEY DIDN'T ASK YOU!
SHUT UP, DROOL!
OKAY, BUT ONLY IF THE TWO OF YOU LEAVE *WEASEL* ALONE--HE'S A PAL AND ONLY *I'M* ALLOWED TO SMACK HIM AROUND.
SORRY, WILSON--HE HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING-- I WAS HIRED BY *RAND-MEACHUM* TO CLEAN THEIR SERVER, AND I DID!

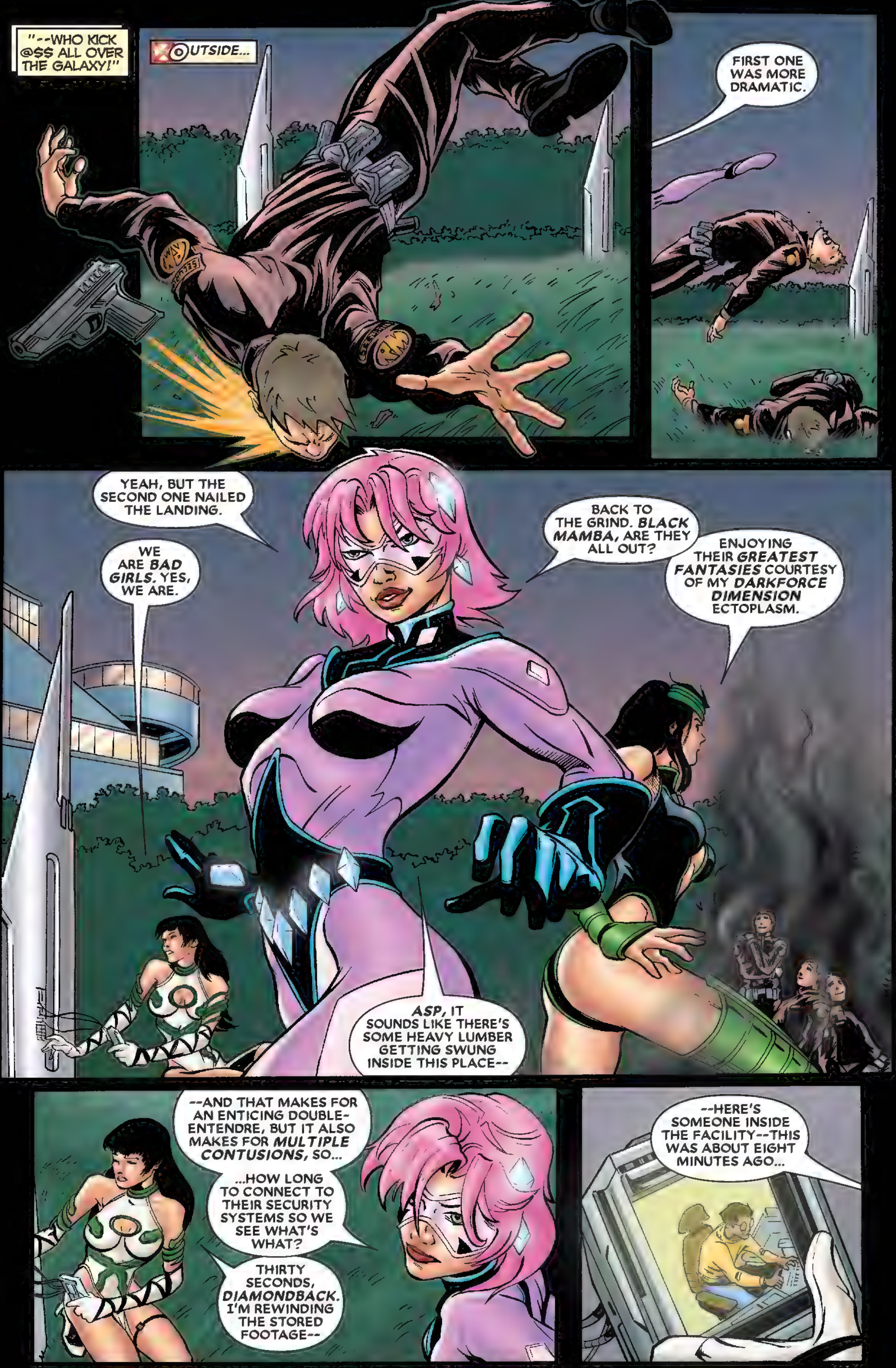

YEAH, THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU'RE LOOKIN' T'RUN AWAY...
I'M TRYING TO RUN AWAY BECAUSE YOU CAN BENCH PRESS RHODE ISLAND!
YEAH, YOU GOT ME THERE...

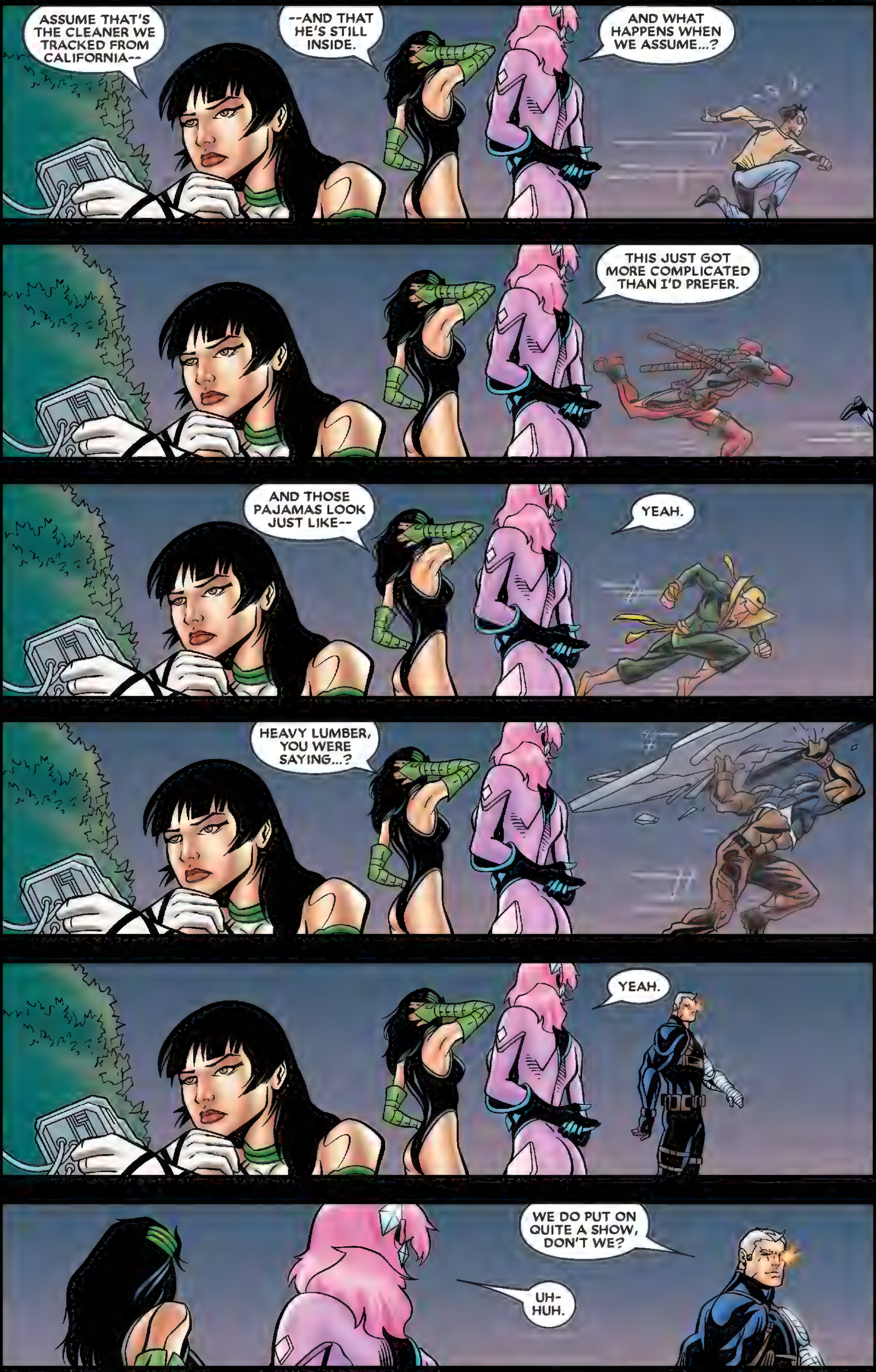

SO WHILE MY BUDDY KICKS THE MUCUS OUT OF YOUR BUDDY...
...HOWZABOUT WE HAVE US A LITTLE *TALK*...
IF WEAS SAYS HE DIDN'T DO NOTHING TO YOUR COMPUTER, THEN HE DIDN'T DO NOTHING.
WE'VE BEEN BUDS FOR YEARS-- HE'S SAVED MY LIFE, I'VE SAVED HIS, HE'S SCREWED ME OVER, I'VE SCREWED HIM OVER--
MMFF
--I WAS TALKIN', SLIPPER-BOY!
IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW ABOUT WEASEL, HE DOESN'T LIE, CHEAT OR STEAL!
OKAY, HE *DOES* CHEAT AND STEAL--AND YEAH, OKAY, HE LIES, TOO--

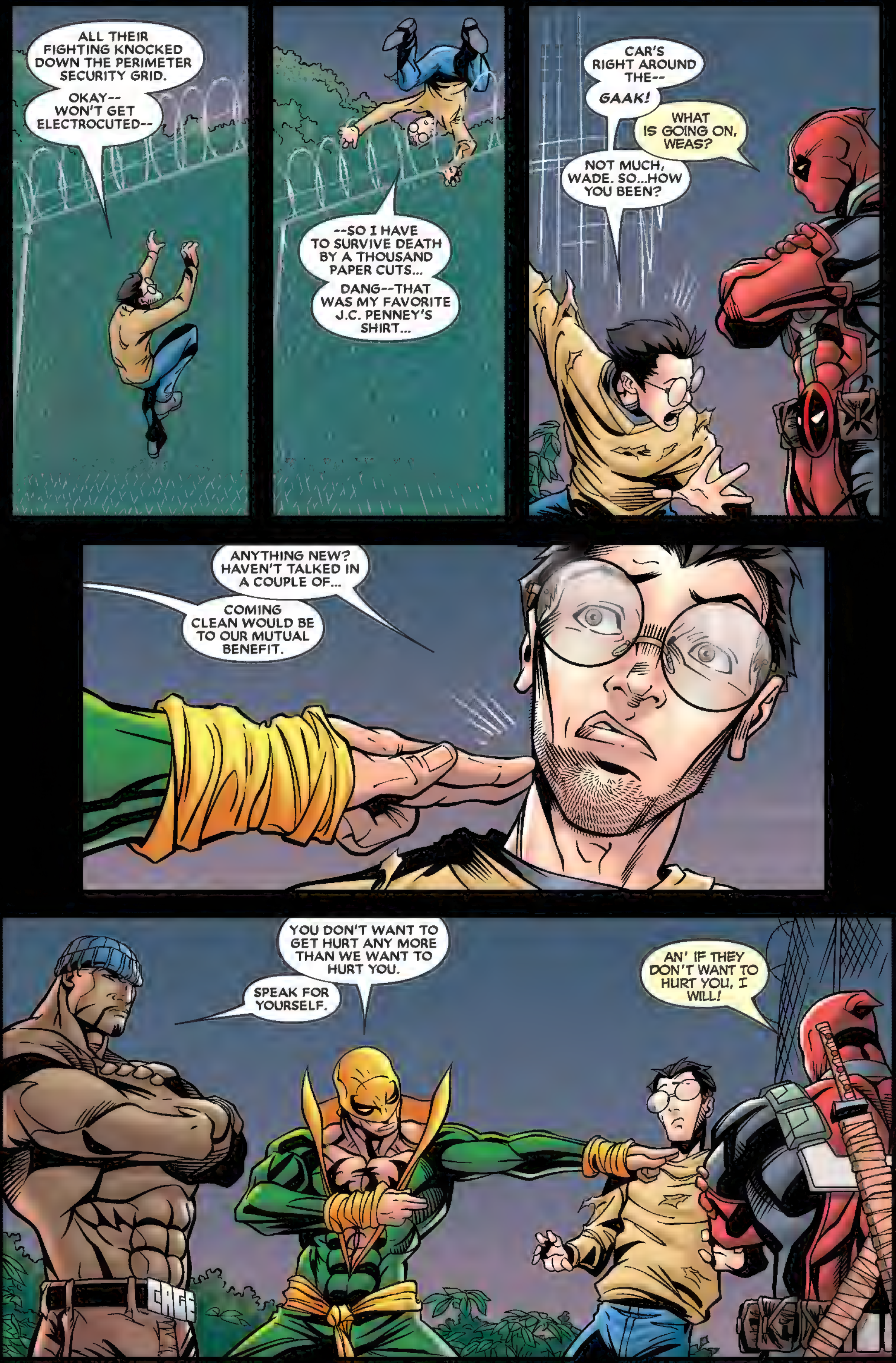

--BUT HE'S MY BUD AND HE WOULDN'T LIE TO *ME!*
SO THAT MEANS I GOT HIS BACK ON THIS ONE EVEN IF IT MEANS I GOTTA SKEWER THE TWO OF YOU MEATBALLS!
OR GET TOSSED INTO A BRICK WALL.
OOMPH.
DID I MENTION THAT I WAS A *HUUUUGE* FAN OF THE YELLOW SILK SHIRT AND THE CHAINS?
ME, TOO. DRAWBACK: COULDN'T EVEN SHOUT OUT ALL THE *BLOOD-STAINS.*
YOUR BLOOD-STAINS?
...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF. CAN I SAY ONE MORE THING WHILE MY JAW REMAINS UNBROKEN--?
CAGE
--IRON FIST-- *WHICH IS A VERY GOOD PORN NAME, BY THE WAY--* ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A BIG BRUISING BEST PAL WATCHING HIS BACK...

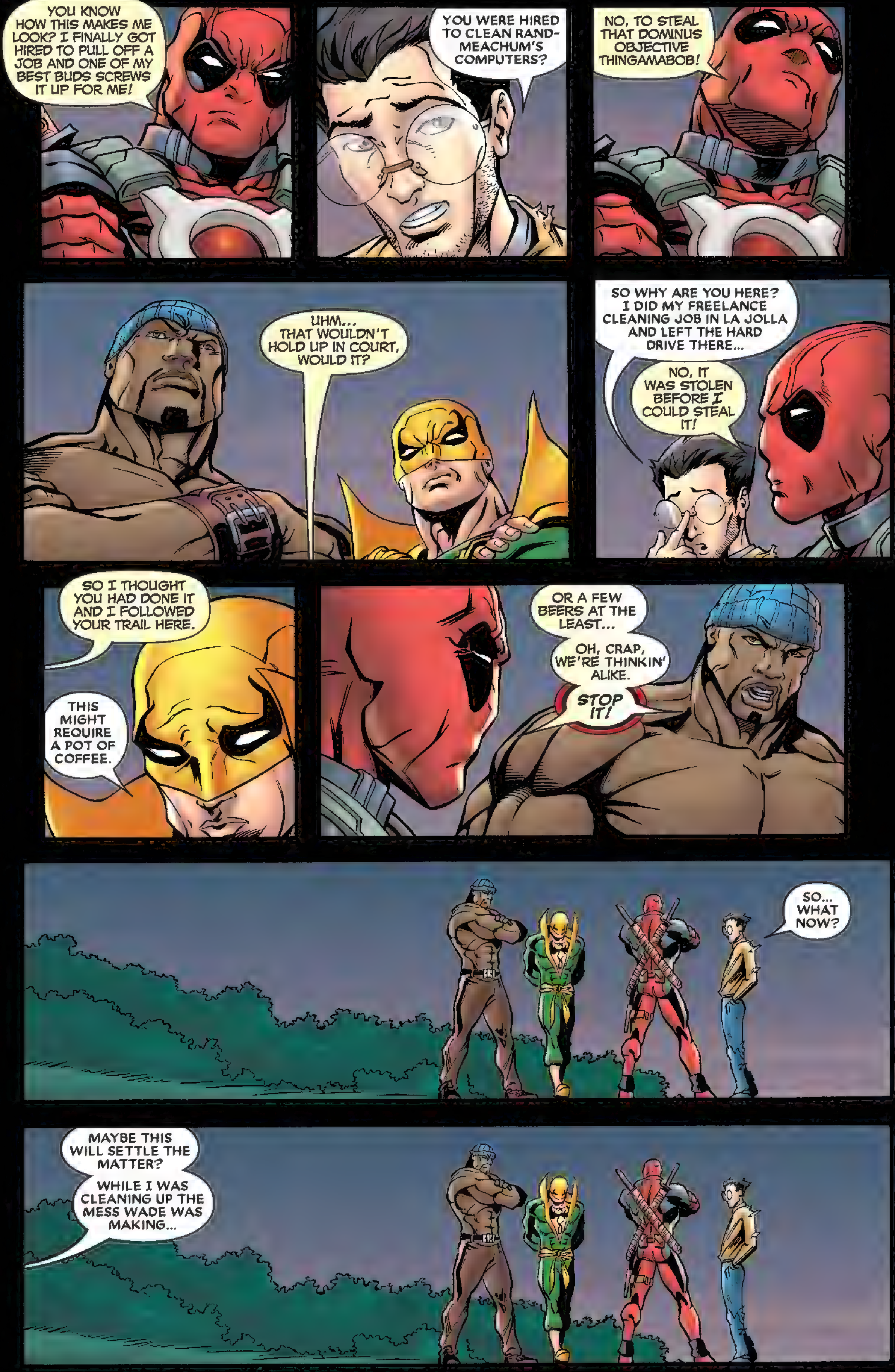

CAG

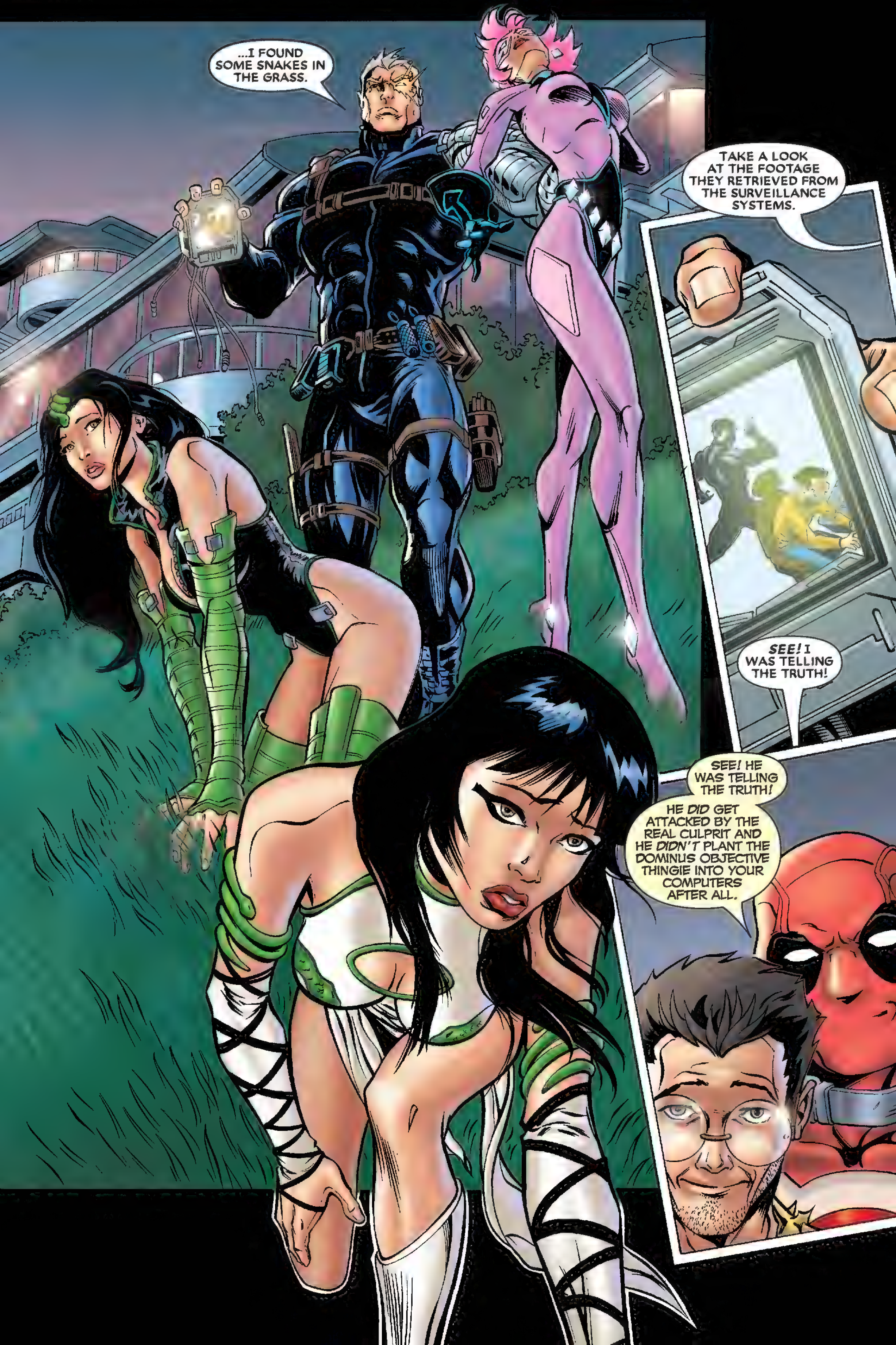

CABLE, RIGHT?
WHY'S A MUTANT JESUS WANNABE STICKIN' UP FOR DEADPOOL WHEN THE GUY TRIED TO KILL YOU A FEW MONTHS AGO?
THE MEDIA DIDN'T QUITE GET THE STORY RIGHT. DEADPOOL SAVED MY LIFE.
HUMPH. BROKEN CLOCK'S RIGHT TWICE A DAY.
LUKE--YOU'RE SENDING MY INSURANCE PREMIUMS THROUGH THE ROOF!
DUDE, YOU DON'T HAVE A ROOF ANYMORE.
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH MY POINT!
CAGE
THEY'RE ALL CLUELESS. LIKE FREAKIN' KIDS KNOCKING DOWN LEGO BLOCKS.
STUPID PLACE WAS PROBABLY BUILT BEFORE ASBESTOS REGULATIONS WERE ENACTED.
PROBABLY SUCKING IN DEATH WITH EVERY BREATH...
YOUR FRIEND IS EITHER SHOWING A COMPLETELY JUSTIFIABLE SURVIVAL INSTINCT OR HE'S GUILTY AS SIN.
OR C) IT'S FRIDAY NIGHT AND BATTLESTAR GALACTICA IS ON.
ARE YOU WATCHING IT, TOO?
I DIG HOT CHICKS--

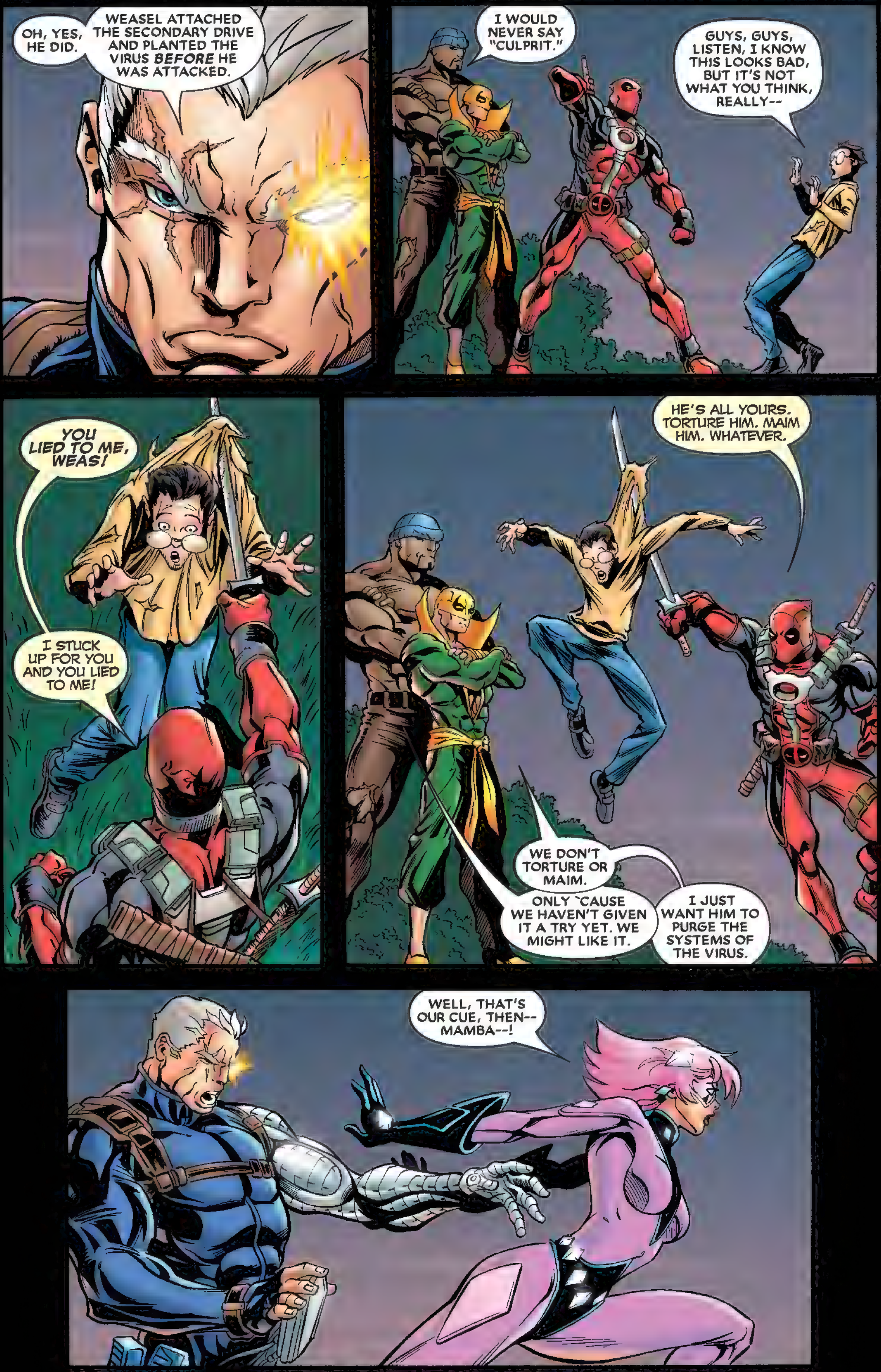

"--WHO KICK @$$ ALL OVER THE GALAXY!"
OUTSIDE...
FIRST ONE WAS MORE DRAMATIC.
YEAH, BUT THE SECOND ONE NAILED THE LANDING.
WE ARE *BAD GIRLS.* YES, WE ARE.
BACK TO THE GRIND. *BLACK MAMBA,* ARE THEY ALL OUT?
ENJOYING THEIR *GREATEST FANTASIES* COURTESY OF MY *DARKFORCE DIMENSION* ECTOPLASM.
ASP, IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S SOME HEAVY LUMBER GETTING SWUNG INSIDE THIS PLACE--
--AND THAT MAKES FOR AN ENTICING DOUBLE-ENTENDRE, BUT IT ALSO MAKES FOR *MULTIPLE CONTUSIONS,* SO...
...HOW LONG TO CONNECT TO THEIR SECURITY SYSTEMS SO WE SEE WHAT'S WHAT?
THIRTY SECONDS, *DIAMONDBACK.* I'M REWINDING THE STORED FOOTAGE--
--HERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE THE FACILITY--THIS WAS ABOUT EIGHT MINUTES AGO...

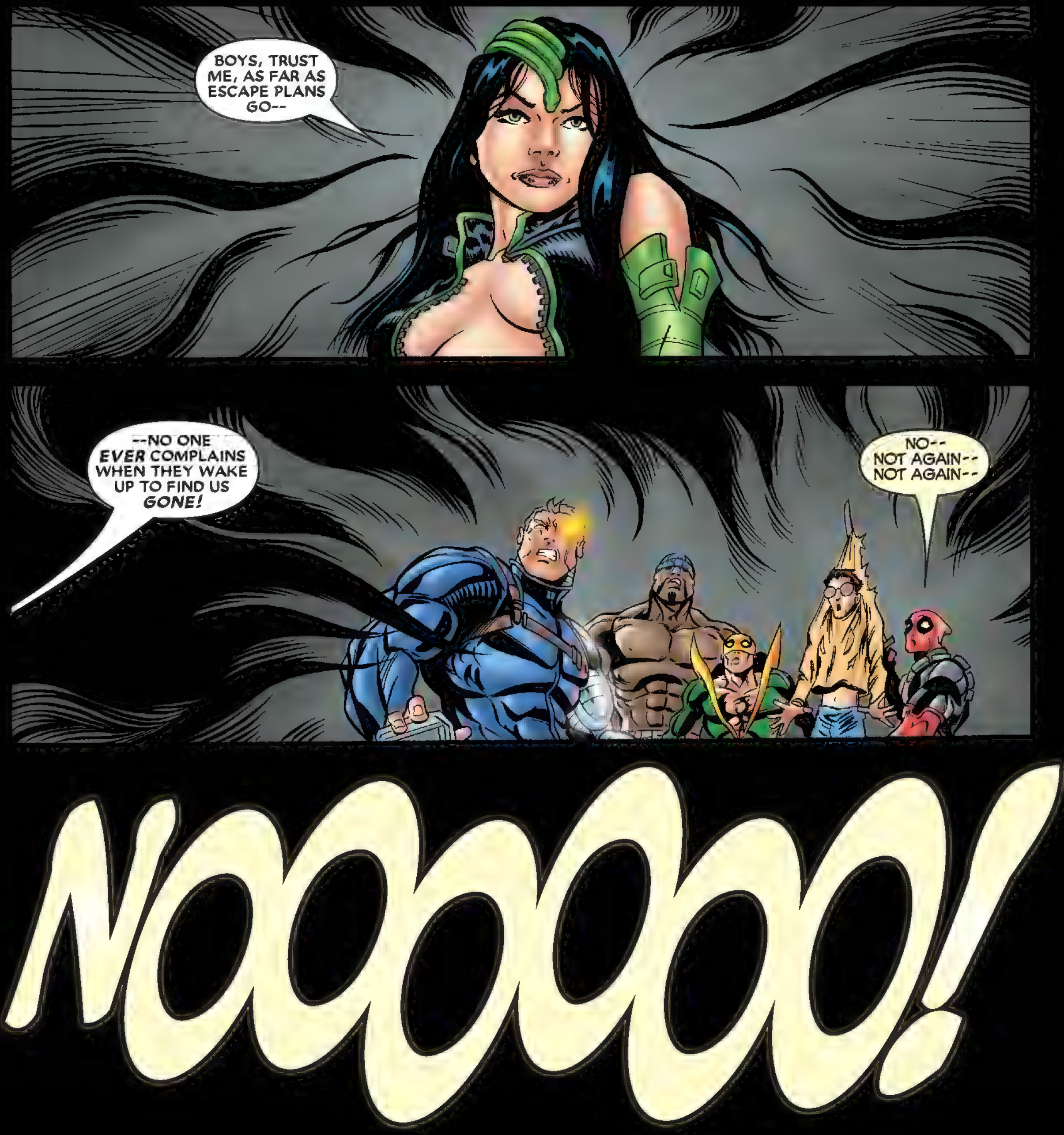

ASSUME THAT'S THE CLEANER WE TRACKED FROM CALIFORNIA--
--AND THAT HE'S STILL INSIDE.
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ASSUME...?
THIS JUST GOT MORE COMPLICATED THAN I'D PREFER.
AND THOSE PAJAMAS LOOK JUST LIKE--
YEAH.
HEAVY LUMBER, YOU WERE SAYING...?
YEAH.
WE DO PUT ON QUITE A SHOW, DON'T WE?
UH-HUH.

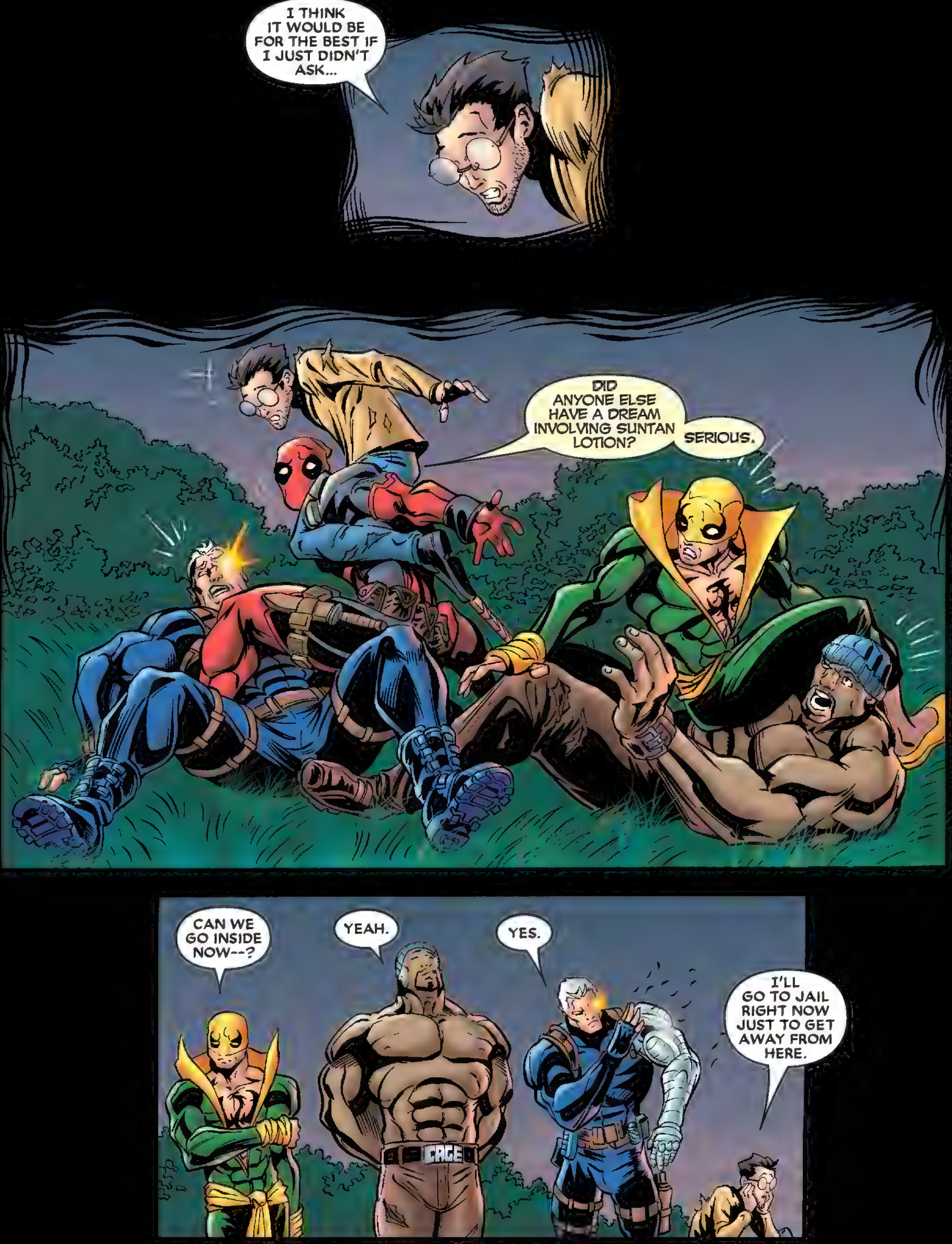

ALL THEIR FIGHTING KNOCKED DOWN THE PERIMETER SECURITY GRID.
OKAY-- WON'T GET ELECTROCUTED--
--SO I HAVE TO SURVIVE DEATH BY A THOUSAND PAPER CUTS...
DANG--THAT WAS MY FAVORITE J.C. PENNEY'S SHIRT...
CAR'S RIGHT AROUND THE--
GAAK!
WHAT IS GOING ON, WEAS?
NOT MUCH, WADE. SO...HOW YOU BEEN?
ANYTHING NEW? HAVEN'T TALKED IN A COUPLE OF...
COMING CLEAN WOULD BE TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.
YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT ANY MORE THAN WE WANT TO HURT YOU.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.
AN' IF THEY DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, I WILL!
CAGE

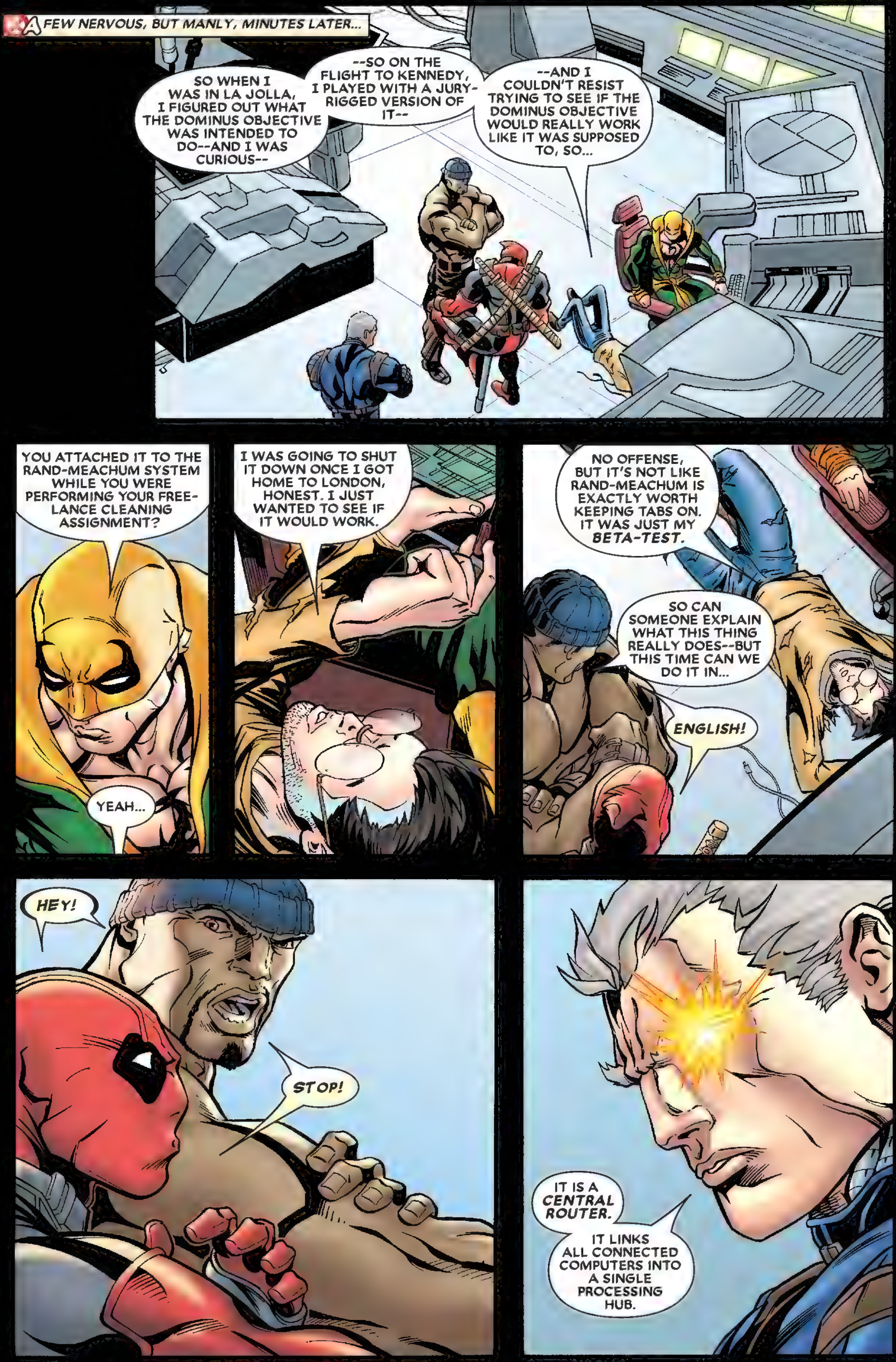

YOU KNOW HOW THIS MAKES ME LOOK? I FINALLY GOT HIRED TO PULL OFF A JOB AND ONE OF MY BEST BUDS SCREWS IT UP FOR ME!
YOU WERE HIRED TO CLEAN RAND-MEACHUM'S COMPUTERS?
NO, TO STEAL THAT DOMINUS OBJECTIVE THINGAMABOB!
UHM... THAT WOULDN'T HOLD UP IN COURT, WOULD IT?
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE? I DID MY FREELANCE CLEANING JOB IN LA JOLLA AND LEFT THE HARD DRIVE THERE...
NO, IT WAS STOLEN BEFORE I COULD STEAL IT!
SO I THOUGHT YOU HAD DONE IT AND I FOLLOWED YOUR TRAIL HERE.
THIS MIGHT REQUIRE A POT OF COFFEE.
OR A FEW BEERS AT THE LEAST...
OH, CRAP, WE'RE THINKIN' ALIKE.
STOP IT!
SO... WHAT NOW?
MAYBE THIS WILL SETTLE THE MATTER?
WHILE I WAS CLEANING UP THE MESS WADE WAS MAKING...

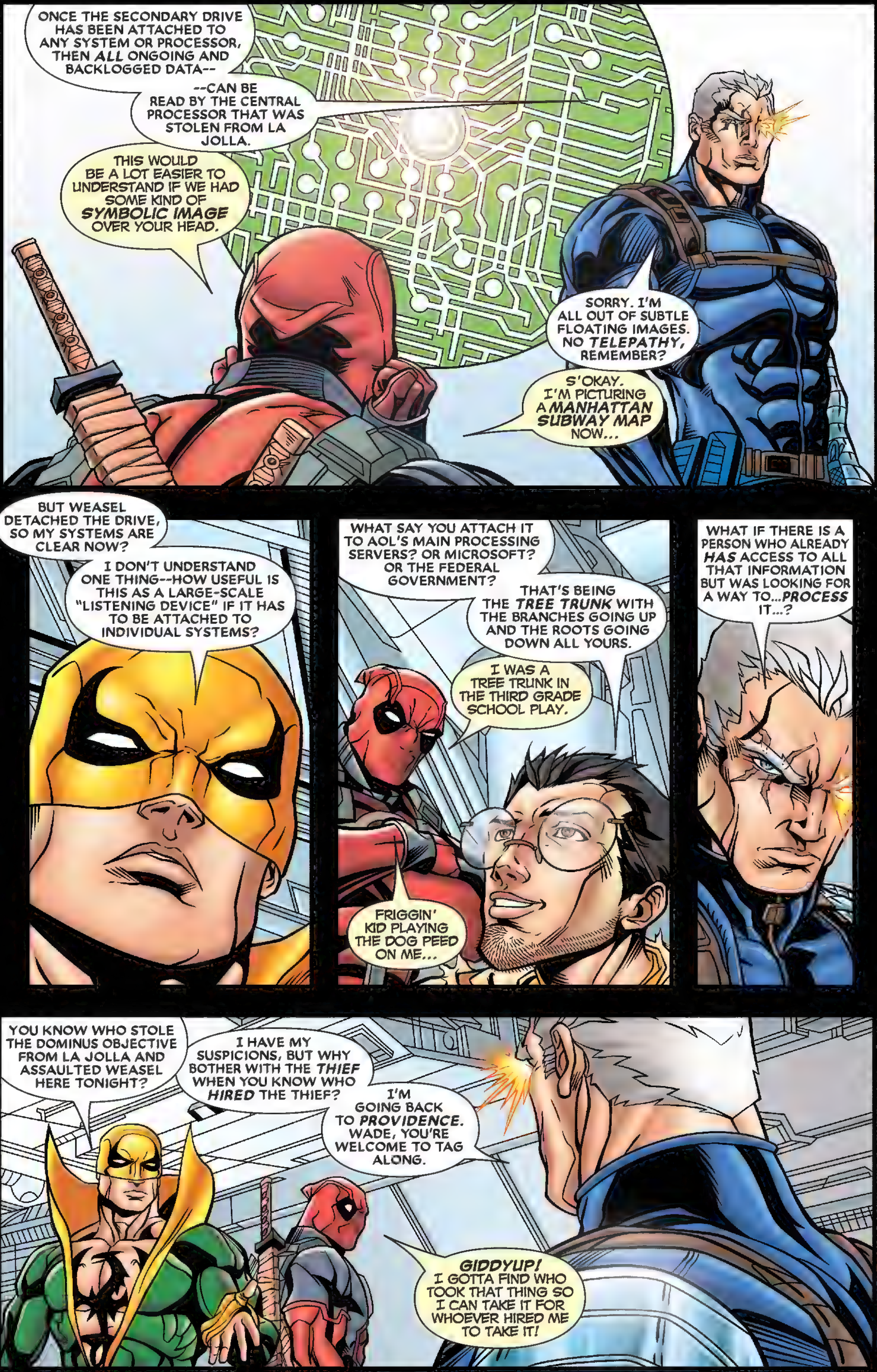

...I FOUND SOME SNAKES IN THE GRASS.
TAKE A LOOK AT THE FOOTAGE THEY RETRIEVED FROM THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.
SEE! I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!
SEE! HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!
HE *DID* GET ATTACKED BY THE REAL CULPRIT AND HE *DIDN'T* PLANT THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE THINGIE INTO YOUR COMPUTERS AFTER ALL.

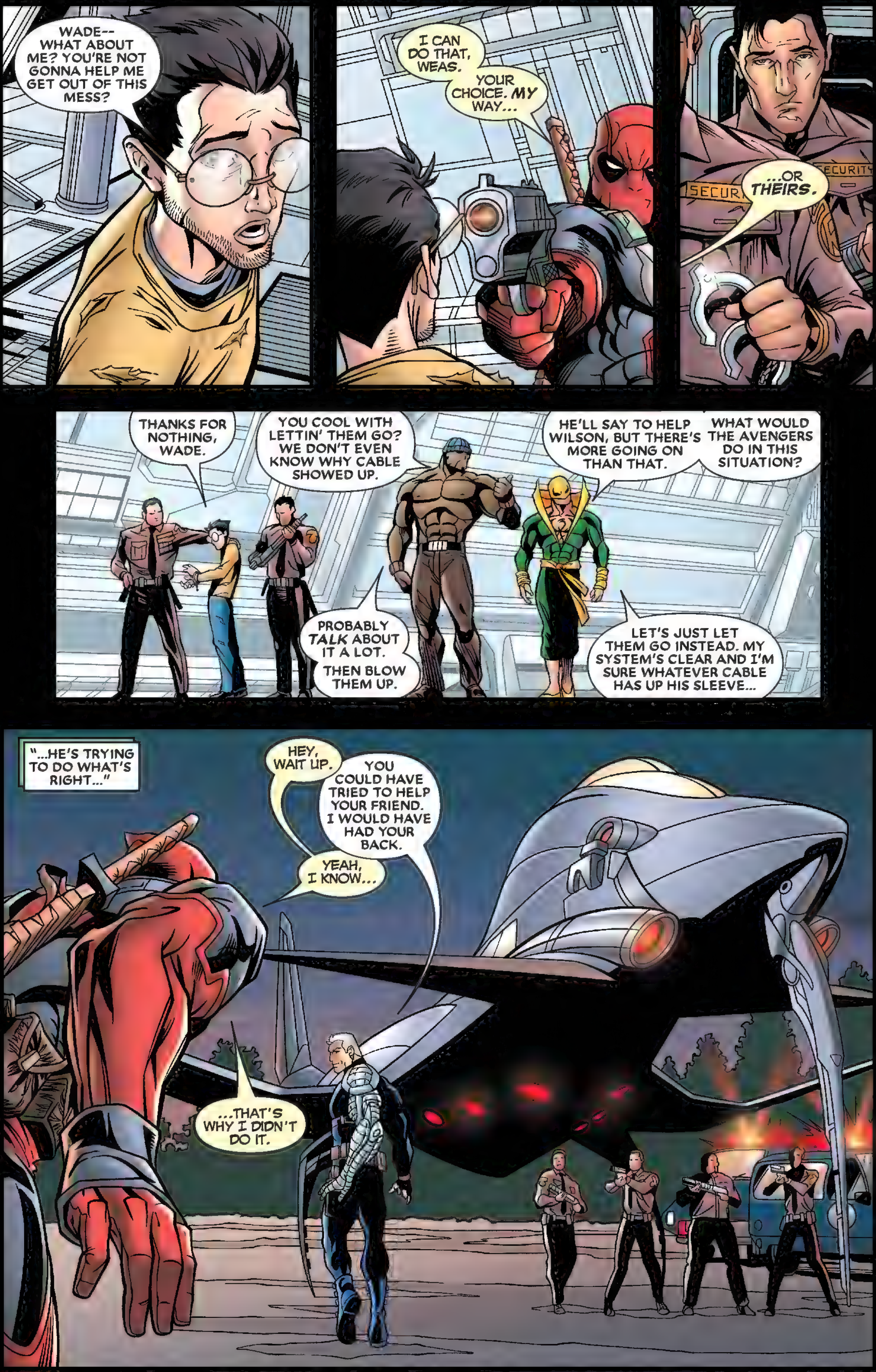

OH, YES, HE DID.
WEASEL ATTACHED THE SECONDARY DRIVE AND PLANTED THE VIRUS *BEFORE* HE WAS ATTACKED.
I WOULD NEVER SAY "CULPRIT."
GUYS, GUYS, LISTEN, I KNOW THIS LOOKS BAD, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, REALLY--
YOU LIED TO ME, WEAS!
I STUCK UP FOR YOU AND YOU LIED TO ME!
HE'S ALL YOURS. TORTURE HIM. MAIM HIM. WHATEVER.
WE DON'T TORTURE OR MAIM.
I JUST WANT HIM TO PURGE THE SYSTEMS OF THE VIRUS.
ONLY 'CAUSE WE HAVEN'T GIVEN IT A TRY YET. WE MIGHT LIKE IT.
WELL, THAT'S OUR CUE, THEN-- MAMBA--!

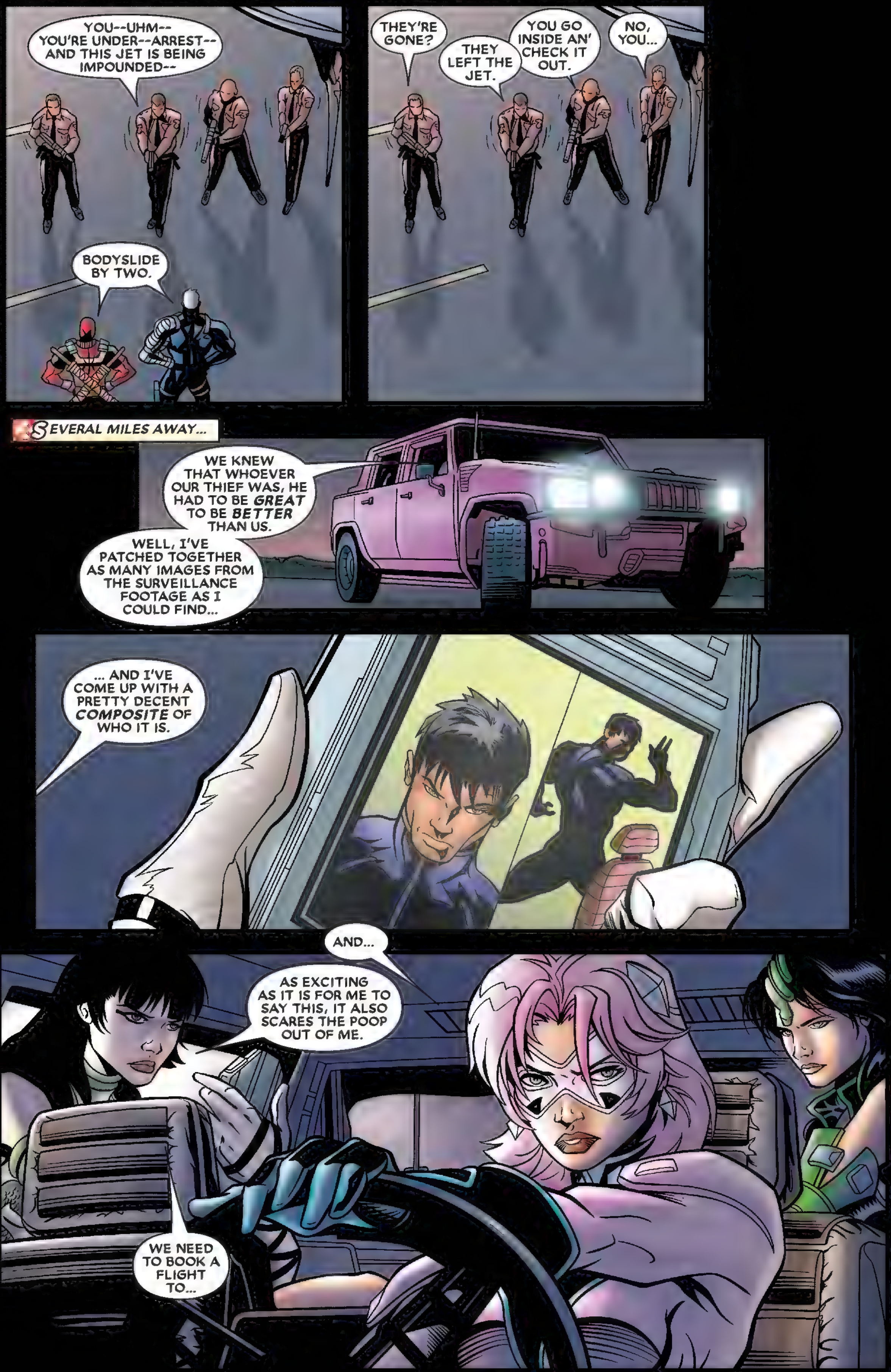

BOYS, TRUST ME, AS FAR AS ESCAPE PLANS GO--
--NO ONE *EVER* COMPLAINS WHEN THEY WAKE UP TO FIND US *GONE!*
NO-- NOT AGAIN-- NOT AGAIN--
NOOOOOO!

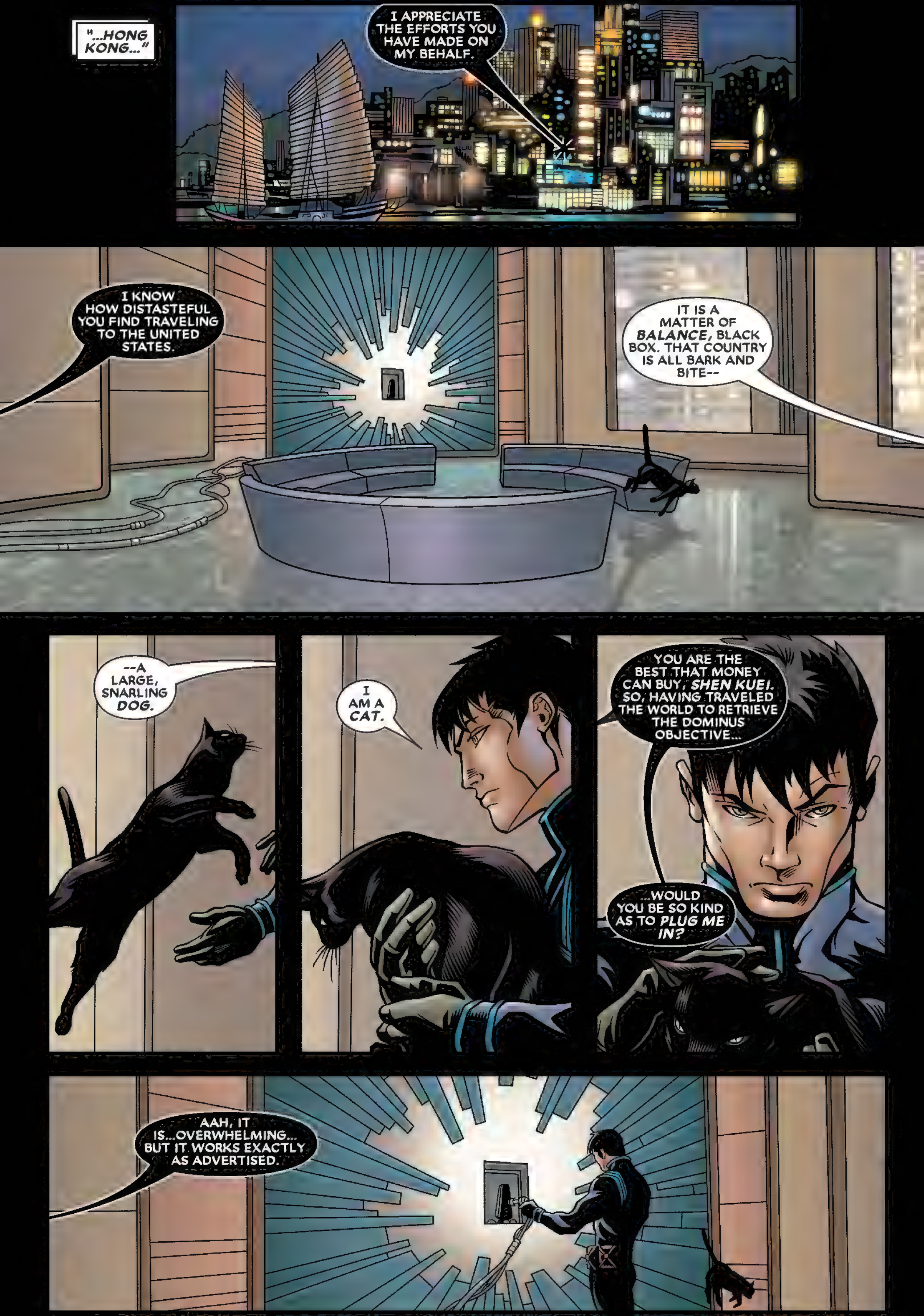

I THINK IT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST IF I JUST DIDN'T ASK...
DID ANYONE ELSE HAVE A DREAM INVOLVING SUNTAN LOTION?
SERIOUS.
CAN WE GO INSIDE NOW--?
YEAH.
YES.
CAGE
I'LL GO TO JAIL RIGHT NOW JUST TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.

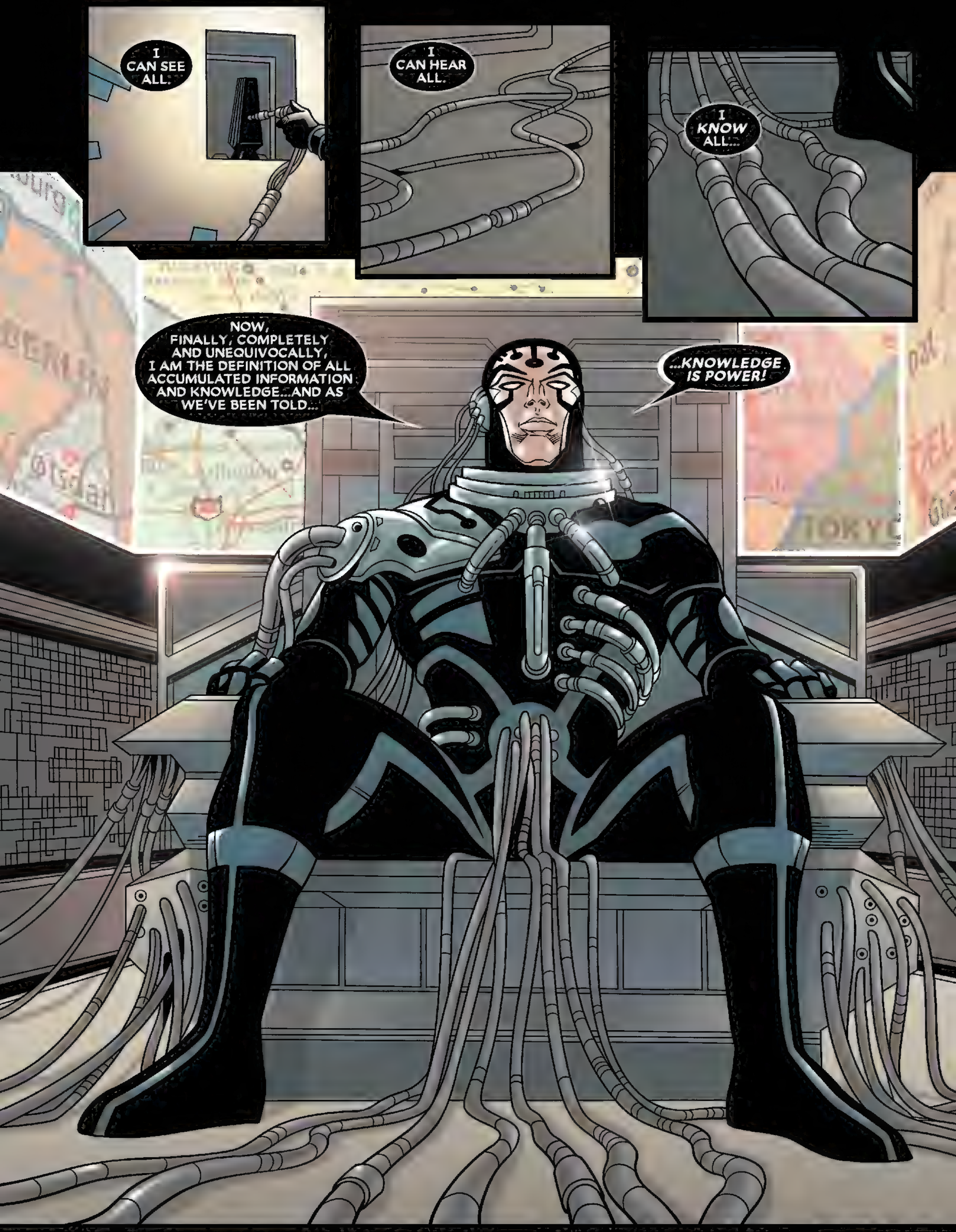

A FEW NERVOUS, BUT MANLY, MINUTES LATER...
SO WHEN I WAS IN LA JOLLA, I FIGURED OUT WHAT THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE WAS INTENDED TO DO--AND I WAS CURIOUS--
--SO ON THE FLIGHT TO KENNEDY, I PLAYED WITH A JURY-RIGGED VERSION OF IT--
--AND I COULDN'T RESIST TRYING TO SEE IF THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE WOULD REALLY WORK LIKE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO, SO...
YOU ATTACHED IT TO THE RAND-MEACHUM SYSTEM WHILE YOU WERE PERFORMING YOUR FREE-LANCE CLEANING ASSIGNMENT?
YEAH...
I WAS GOING TO SHUT IT DOWN ONCE I GOT HOME TO LONDON, HONEST. I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF IT WOULD WORK.
NO OFFENSE, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE RAND-MEACHUM IS EXACTLY WORTH KEEPING TABS ON. IT WAS JUST MY *BETA-TEST.*
SO CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN WHAT THIS THING REALLY DOES--BUT THIS TIME CAN WE DO IT IN...
ENGLISH!
HEY!
STOP!
IT IS A *CENTRAL ROUTER.*
IT LINKS ALL CONNECTED COMPUTERS INTO A SINGLE PROCESSING HUB.


ONCE THE SECONDARY DRIVE HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO ANY SYSTEM OR PROCESSOR, THEN *ALL* ONGOING AND BACKLOGGED DATA--
--CAN BE READ BY THE CENTRAL PROCESSOR THAT WAS STOLEN FROM LA JOLLA.
THIS WOULD BE A LOT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND IF WE HAD SOME KIND OF ***SYMBOLIC IMAGE*** OVER YOUR HEAD.
SORRY. I'M ALL OUT OF SUBTLE FLOATING IMAGES. NO ***TELEPATHY***, REMEMBER?
S'OKAY. I'M PICTURING A ***MANHATTAN SUBWAY MAP*** NOW...
BUT WEASEL DETACHED THE DRIVE, SO MY SYSTEMS ARE CLEAR NOW?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ONE THING--HOW USEFUL IS THIS AS A LARGE-SCALE "LISTENING DEVICE" IF IT HAS TO BE ATTACHED TO INDIVIDUAL SYSTEMS?
WHAT SAY YOU ATTACH IT TO AOL'S MAIN PROCESSING SERVERS? OR MICROSOFT? OR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?
THAT'S BEING THE ***TREE TRUNK*** WITH THE BRANCHES GOING UP AND THE ROOTS GOING DOWN ALL YOURS.
I WAS A TREE TRUNK IN THE THIRD GRADE SCHOOL PLAY.
FRIGGIN' KID PLAYING THE DOG PEED ON ME...
WHAT IF THERE IS A PERSON WHO ALREADY ***HAS*** ACCESS TO ALL THAT INFORMATION BUT WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO...***PROCESS*** IT...?
YOU KNOW WHO STOLE THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE FROM LA JOLLA AND ASSAULTED WEASEL HERE TONIGHT?
I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS, BUT WHY BOTHER WITH THE ***THIEF*** WHEN YOU KNOW WHO ***HIRED*** THE THIEF?
I'M GOING BACK TO ***PROVIDENCE***. WADE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO TAG ALONG.
GIDDYUP! I GOTTA FIND WHO TOOK THAT THING SO I CAN TAKE IT FOR WHOEVER HIRED ME TO TAKE IT!


WADE-- WHAT ABOUT ME? YOU'RE NOT GONNA HELP ME GET OUT OF THIS MESS?
I CAN DO THAT, WEAS.
YOUR CHOICE. *MY* WAY...
...OR *THEIRS.*
SECURITY
SECUR
THANKS FOR NOTHING, WADE.
YOU COOL WITH LETTIN' THEM GO? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY CABLE SHOWED UP.
HE'LL SAY TO HELP WILSON, BUT THERE'S MORE GOING ON THAN THAT.
WHAT WOULD THE AVENGERS DO IN THIS SITUATION?
PROBABLY *TALK* ABOUT IT A LOT.
THEN BLOW THEM UP.
LET'S JUST LET THEM GO INSTEAD. MY SYSTEM'S CLEAR AND I'M SURE WHATEVER CABLE HAS UP HIS SLEEVE...
"...HE'S TRYING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT..."
HEY, WAIT UP.
YOU COULD HAVE TRIED TO HELP YOUR FRIEND. I WOULD HAVE HAD YOUR BACK.
YEAH, I KNOW...
...THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T DO IT.


YOU--UHM--
YOU'RE UNDER--ARREST--
AND THIS JET IS BEING
IMPOUNDED--
BODYSLIDE BY TWO.
THEY'RE GONE?
THEY LEFT THE JET.
YOU GO INSIDE AN' CHECK IT OUT.
NO, YOU...
SEVERAL MILES AWAY...
WE KNEW THAT WHOEVER OUR THIEF WAS, HE HAD TO BE *GREAT* TO BE *BETTER* THAN US.
WELL, I'VE PATCHED TOGETHER AS MANY IMAGES FROM THE SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE AS I COULD FIND...
... AND I'VE COME UP WITH A PRETTY DECENT *COMPOSITE* OF WHO IT IS.
AND...
AS EXCITING AS IT IS FOR ME TO SAY THIS, IT ALSO SCARES THE POOP OUT OF ME.
WE NEED TO BOOK A FLIGHT TO...


"...HONG KONG..."
I APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE MADE ON MY BEHALF.
I KNOW HOW DISTASTEFUL YOU FIND TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES.
IT IS A MATTER OF BALANCE, BLACK BOX. THAT COUNTRY IS ALL BARK AND BITE--
--A LARGE, SNARLING DOG.
I AM A CAT.
YOU ARE THE BEST THAT MONEY CAN BUY, SHEN KUEI. SO, HAVING TRAVELED THE WORLD TO RETRIEVE THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE...
...WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO PLUG ME IN?
AAH, IT IS...OVERWHELMING... BUT IT WORKS EXACTLY AS ADVERTISED.


I CAN SEE ALL.
I CAN HEAR ALL.
I KNOW ALL...
NOW, FINALLY, COMPLETELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY, I AM THE DEFINITION OF ALL ACCUMULATED INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE...AND AS WE'VE BEEN TOLD...
...KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

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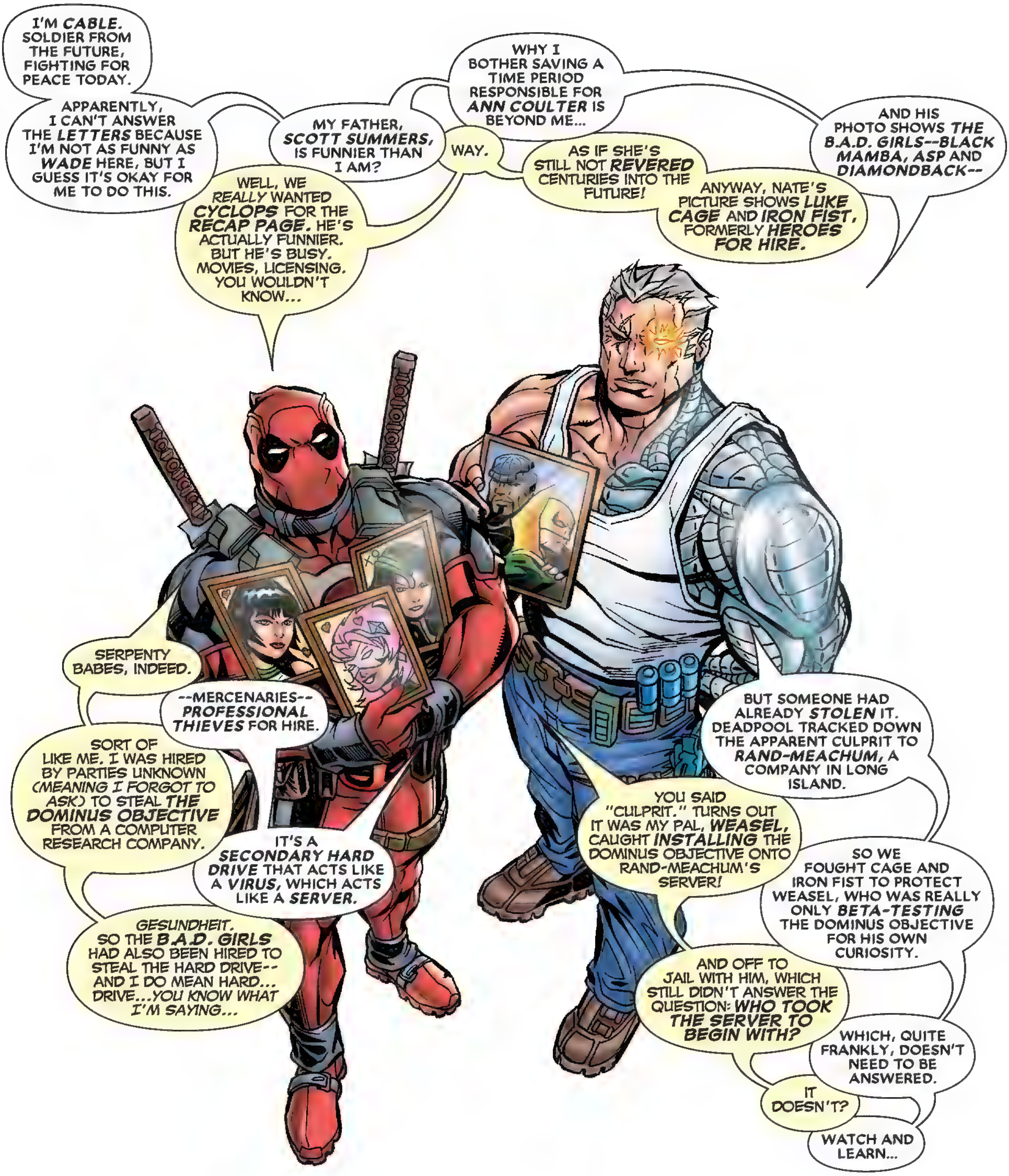
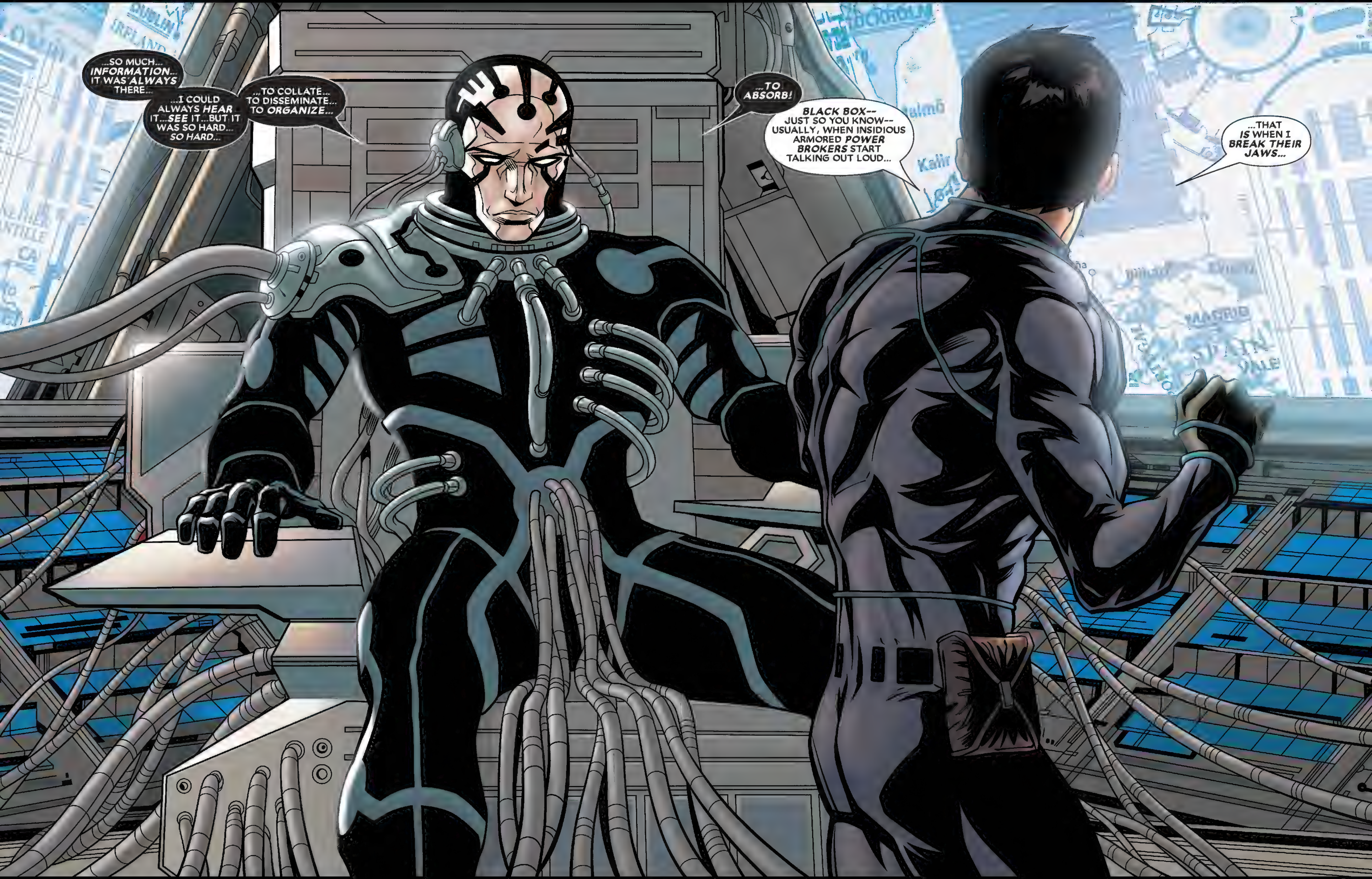
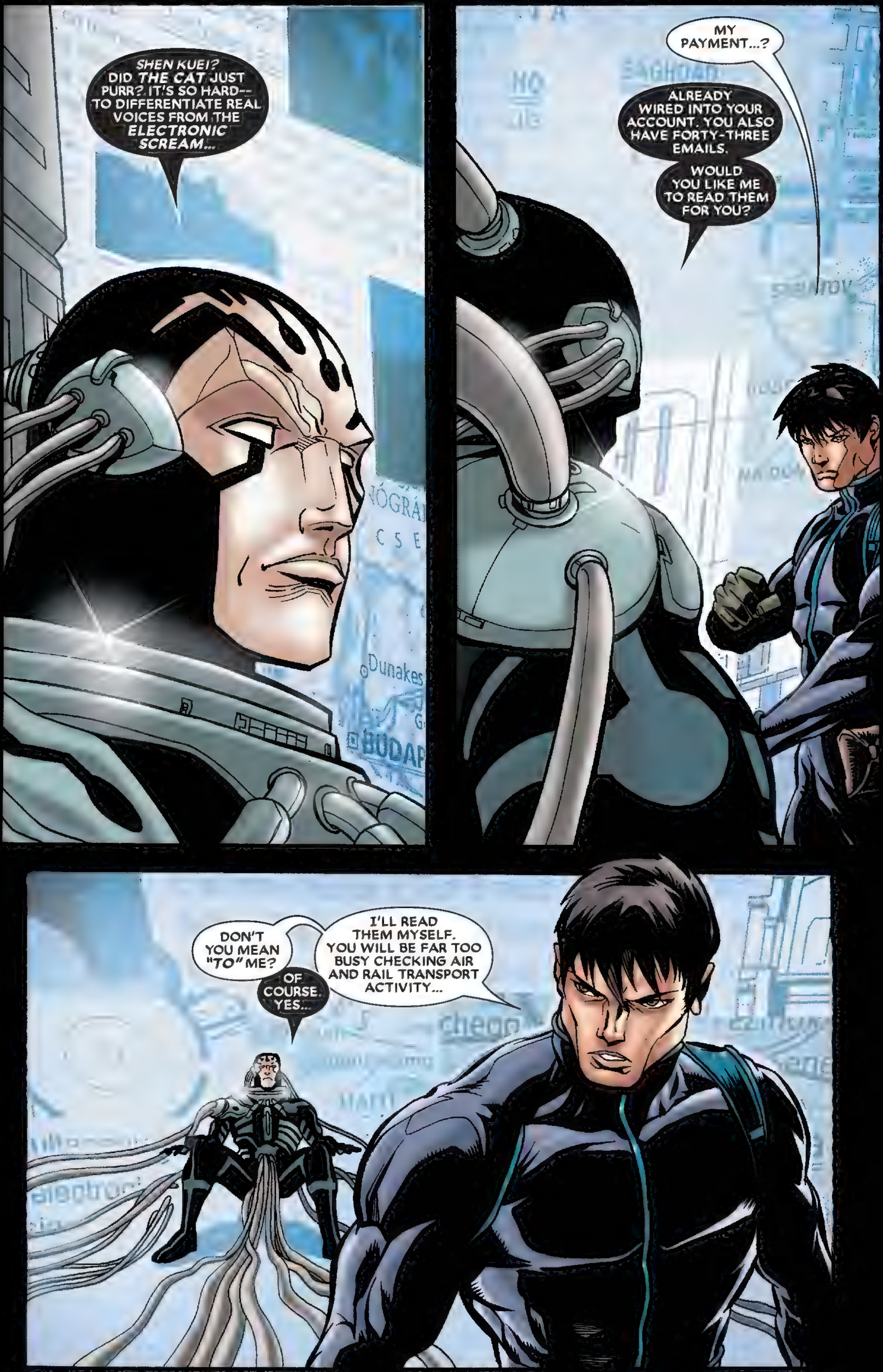
CRACK THE INTERNET IN HALF™

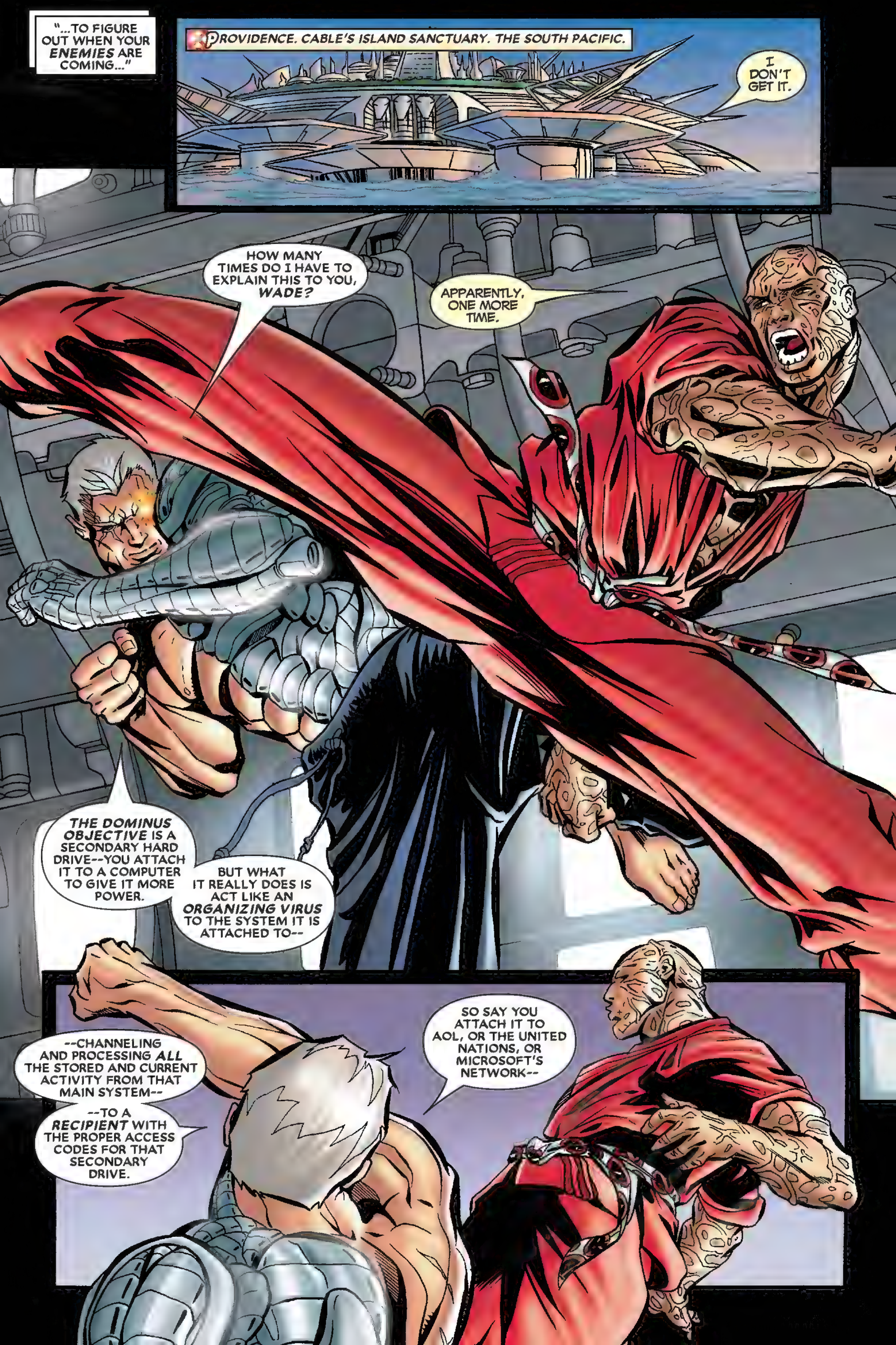
BOSOM BUDDIES

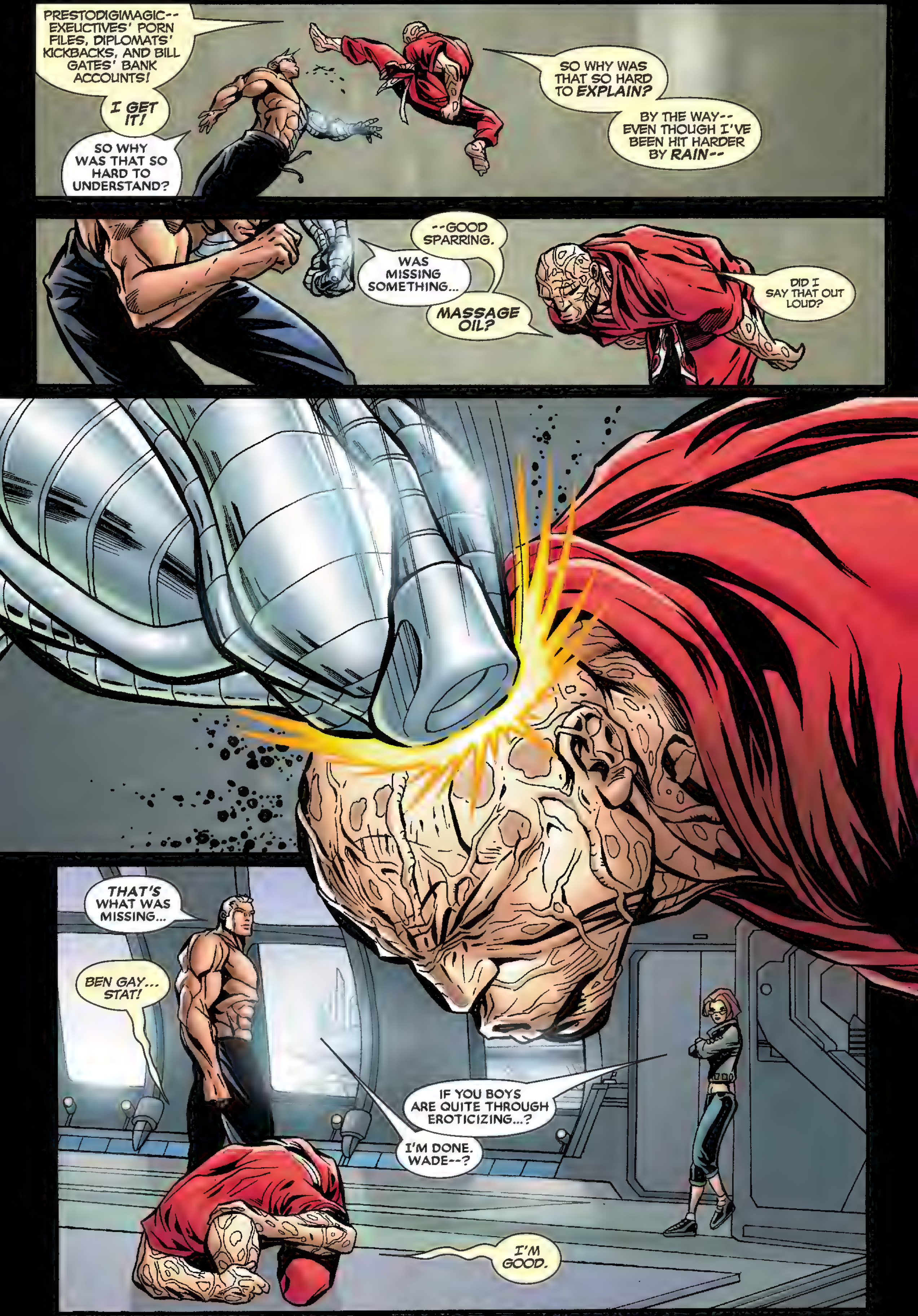
PART 3 OF 4

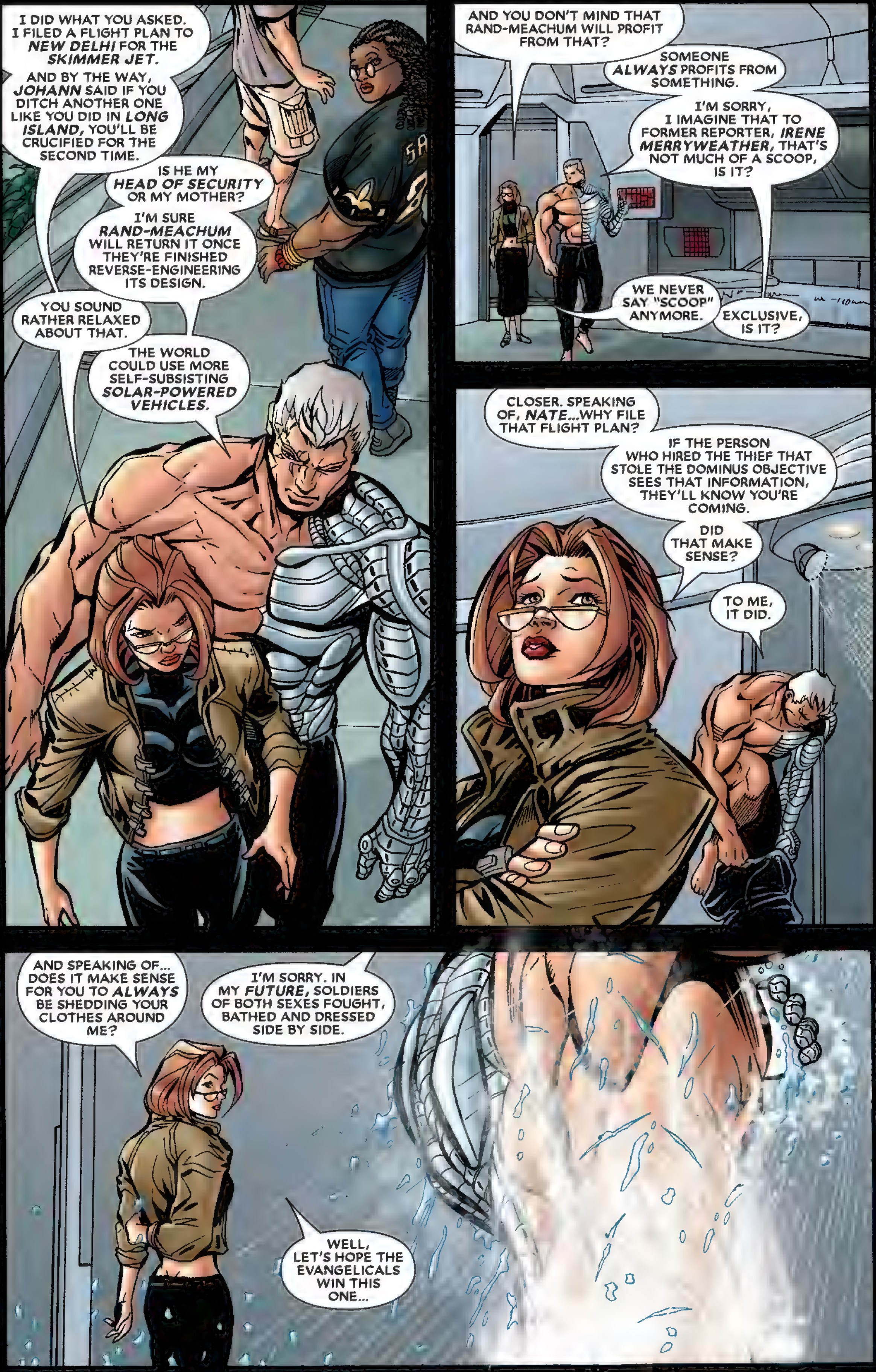

I'M CABLE. SOLDIER FROM THE FUTURE, FIGHTING FOR PEACE TODAY.
APPARENTLY, I CAN'T ANSWER THE LETTERS BECAUSE I'M NOT AS FUNNY AS WADE HERE, BUT I GUESS IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO DO THIS.
MY FATHER, SCOTT SUMMERS, IS FUNNIER THAN I AM?
WELL, WE REALLY WANTED CYCLOPS FOR THE RECAP PAGE. HE'S ACTUALLY FUNNIER. BUT HE'S BUSY. MOVIES, LICENSING. YOU WOULDN'T KNOW...
WHY I BOTHER SAVING A TIME PERIOD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANN COULTER IS BEYOND ME...
WAY.
AS IF SHE'S STILL NOT REVERED CENTURIES INTO THE FUTURE!
ANYWAY, NATE'S PICTURE SHOWS LUKE CAGE AND IRON FIST, FORMERLY HEROES FOR HIRE.
AND HIS PHOTO SHOWS THE B.A.D. GIRLS--BLACK MAMBA, ASP AND DIAMONDBACK--
--MERCENARIES--PROFESSIONAL THIEVES FOR HIRE.
SERPENTY BABES, INDEED.
SORT OF LIKE ME. I WAS HIRED BY PARTIES UNKNOWN (MEANING I FORGOT TO ASK) TO STEAL THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE FROM A COMPUTER RESEARCH COMPANY.
IT'S A SECONDARY HARD DRIVE THAT ACTS LIKE A VIRUS, WHICH ACTS LIKE A SERVER.
GESUNDHEIT. SO THE B.A.D. GIRLS HAD ALSO BEEN HIRED TO STEAL THE HARD DRIVE--AND I DO MEAN HARD... DRIVE...YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING...
BUT SOMEONE HAD ALREADY STOLEN IT. DEADPOOL TRACKED DOWN THE APPARENT CULPRIT TO RAND-MEACHUM, A COMPANY IN LONG ISLAND.
YOU SAID "CULPRIT." TURNS OUT IT WAS MY PAL, WEASEL, CAUGHT INSTALLING THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE ONTO RAND-MEACHUM'S SERVER!
SO WE FOUGHT CAGE AND IRON FIST TO PROTECT WEASEL, WHO WAS REALLY ONLY BETA-TESTING THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE FOR HIS OWN CURIOSITY.
AND OFF TO JAIL WITH HIM, WHICH STILL DIDN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHO TOOK THE SERVER TO BEGIN WITH?
WHICH, QUITE FRANKLY, DOESN'T NEED TO BE ANSWERED.
IT DOESN'T?
WATCH AND LEARN...

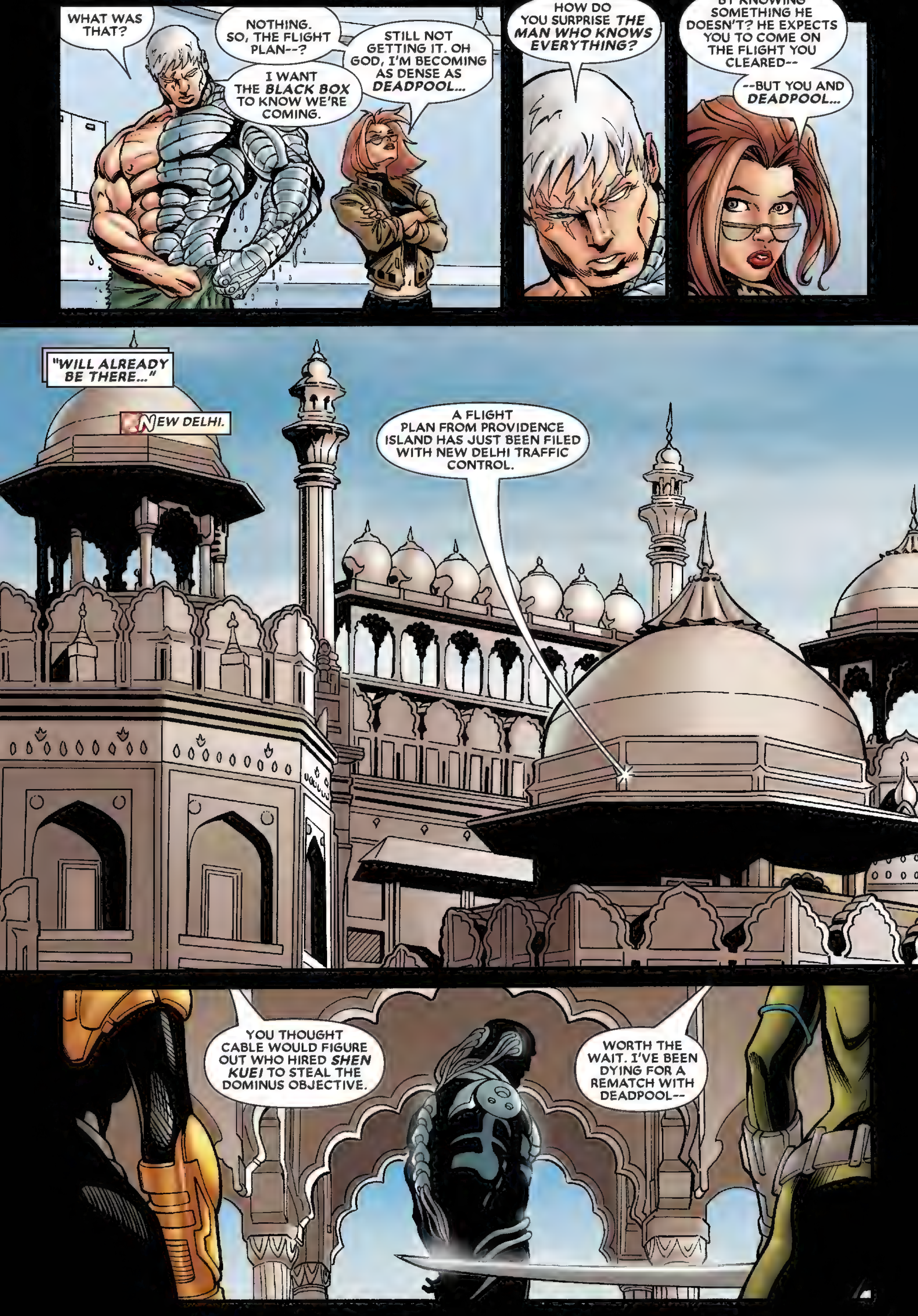

...SO MUCH... *INFORMATION*... IT WAS *ALWAYS* THERE...
...I COULD ALWAYS *HEAR* IT...*SEE* IT...BUT IT WAS SO HARD... *SO HARD*...
...TO COLLATE... TO DISSEMINATE... TO *ORGANIZE*...
...TO *ABSORB!*
BLACK BOX-- JUST SO YOU KNOW-- USUALLY, WHEN INSIDIOUS ARMORED *POWER BROKERS* START TALKING OUT LOUD...
...THAT *IS* WHEN I *BREAK THEIR JAWS*...
DUBLIN
IRELAND
MADRID
SPAIN

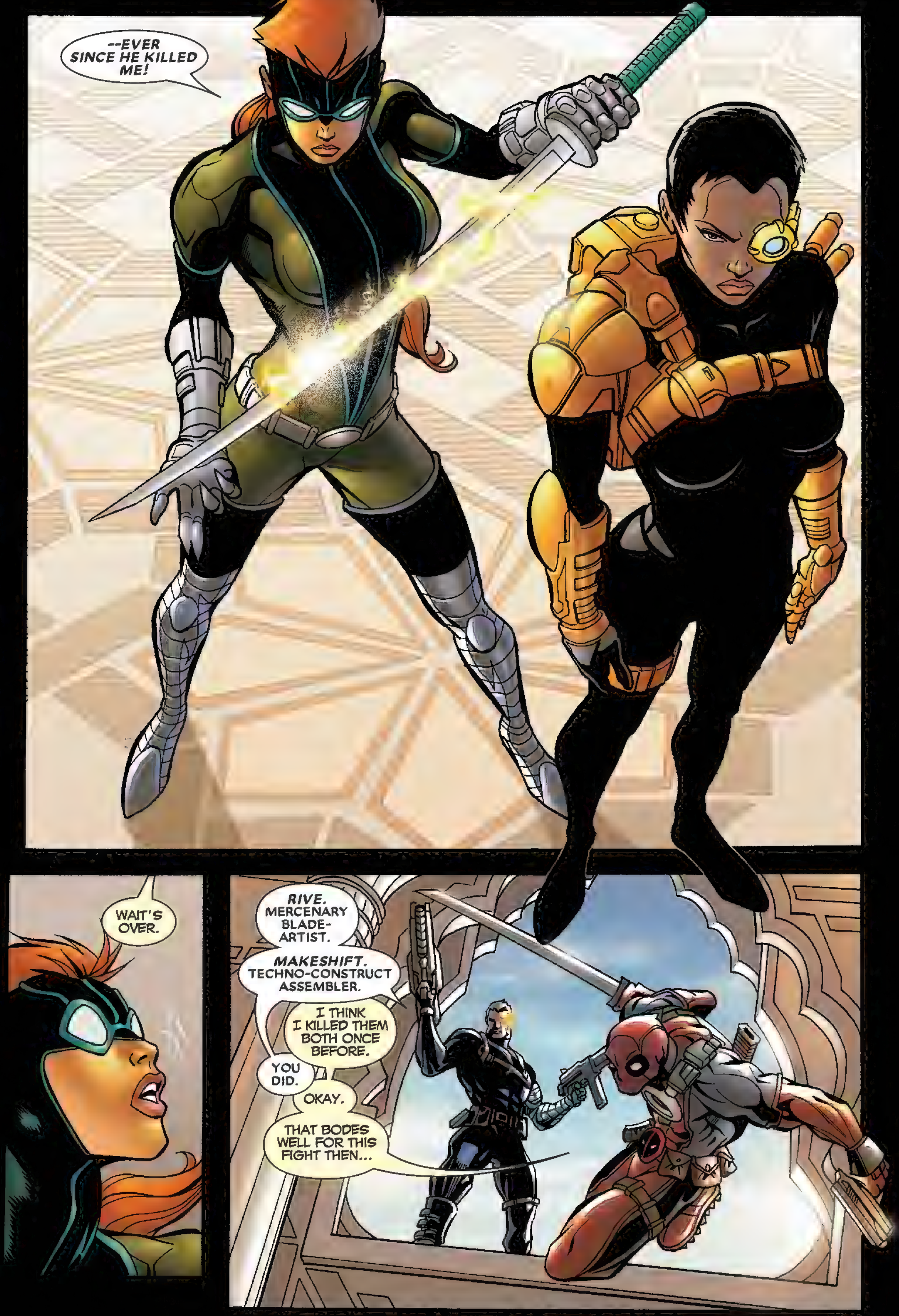

SHEN KUEI? DID *THE CAT* JUST PURR? IT'S SO HARD-- TO DIFFERENTIATE REAL VOICES FROM THE *ELECTRONIC SCREAM*...
BUDAP
Dunakes
MY PAYMENT...?
ALREADY WIRED INTO YOUR ACCOUNT. YOU ALSO HAVE FORTY-THREE EMAILS.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO READ THEM FOR YOU?
BAGHDAD
DON'T YOU MEAN "*TO*" ME?
OF COURSE. YES...
I'LL READ THEM MYSELF. YOU WILL BE FAR TOO BUSY CHECKING AIR AND RAIL TRANSPORT ACTIVITY...

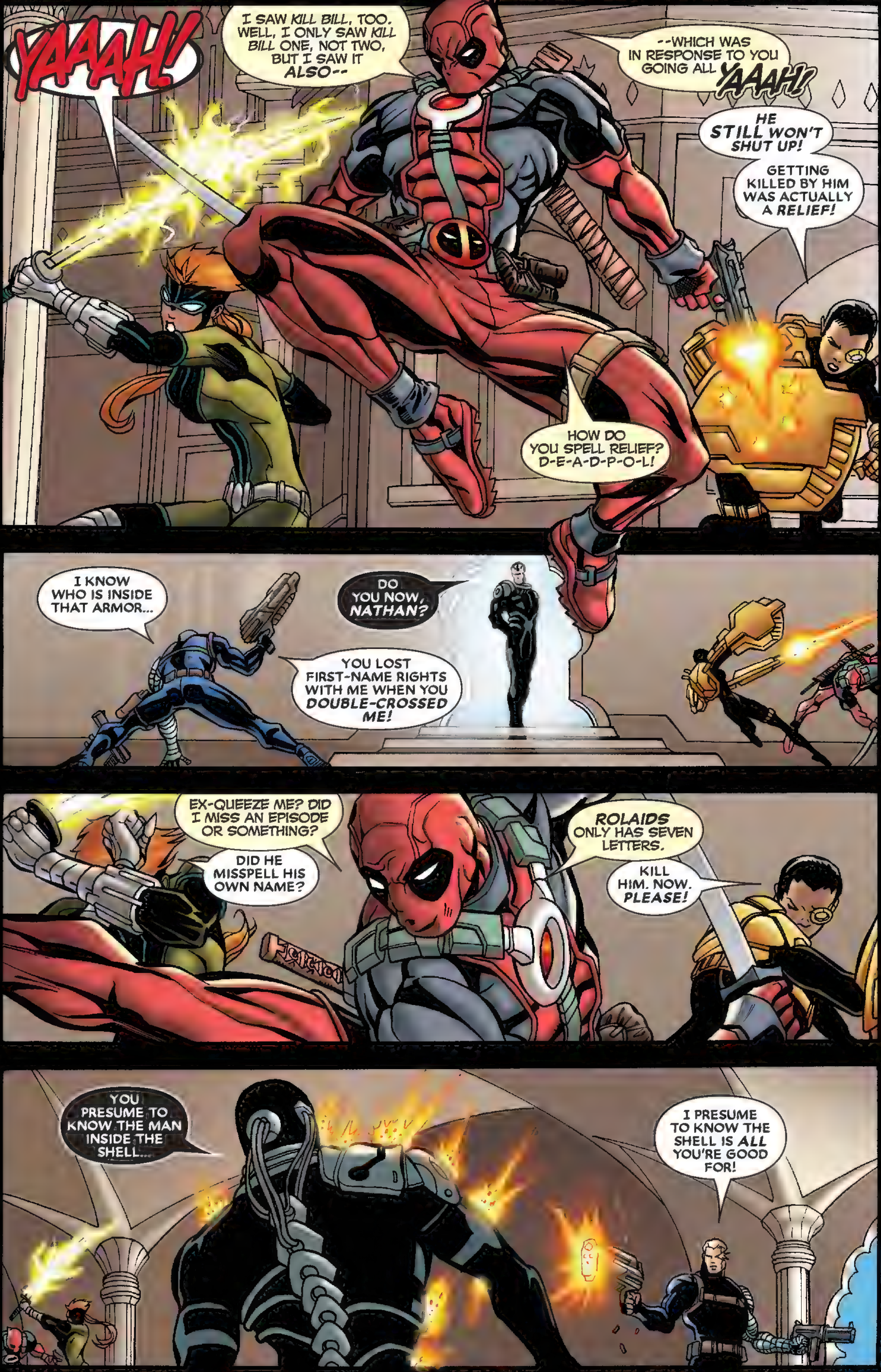

"...TO FIGURE OUT WHEN YOUR *ENEMIES* ARE COMING..."
PROVIDENCE. CABLE'S ISLAND SANCTUARY. THE SOUTH PACIFIC.
I DON'T GET IT.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU, *WADE?*
APPARENTLY, ONE MORE TIME.
THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE IS A SECONDARY HARD DRIVE--YOU ATTACH IT TO A COMPUTER TO GIVE IT MORE POWER.
BUT WHAT IT REALLY DOES IS ACT LIKE AN *ORGANIZING VIRUS* TO THE SYSTEM IT IS ATTACHED TO--
--CHANNELING AND PROCESSING *ALL* THE STORED AND CURRENT ACTIVITY FROM THAT MAIN SYSTEM--
--TO A *RECIPIENT* WITH THE PROPER ACCESS CODES FOR THAT SECONDARY DRIVE.
SO SAY YOU ATTACH IT TO AOL, OR THE UNITED NATIONS, OR MICROSOFT'S NETWORK--

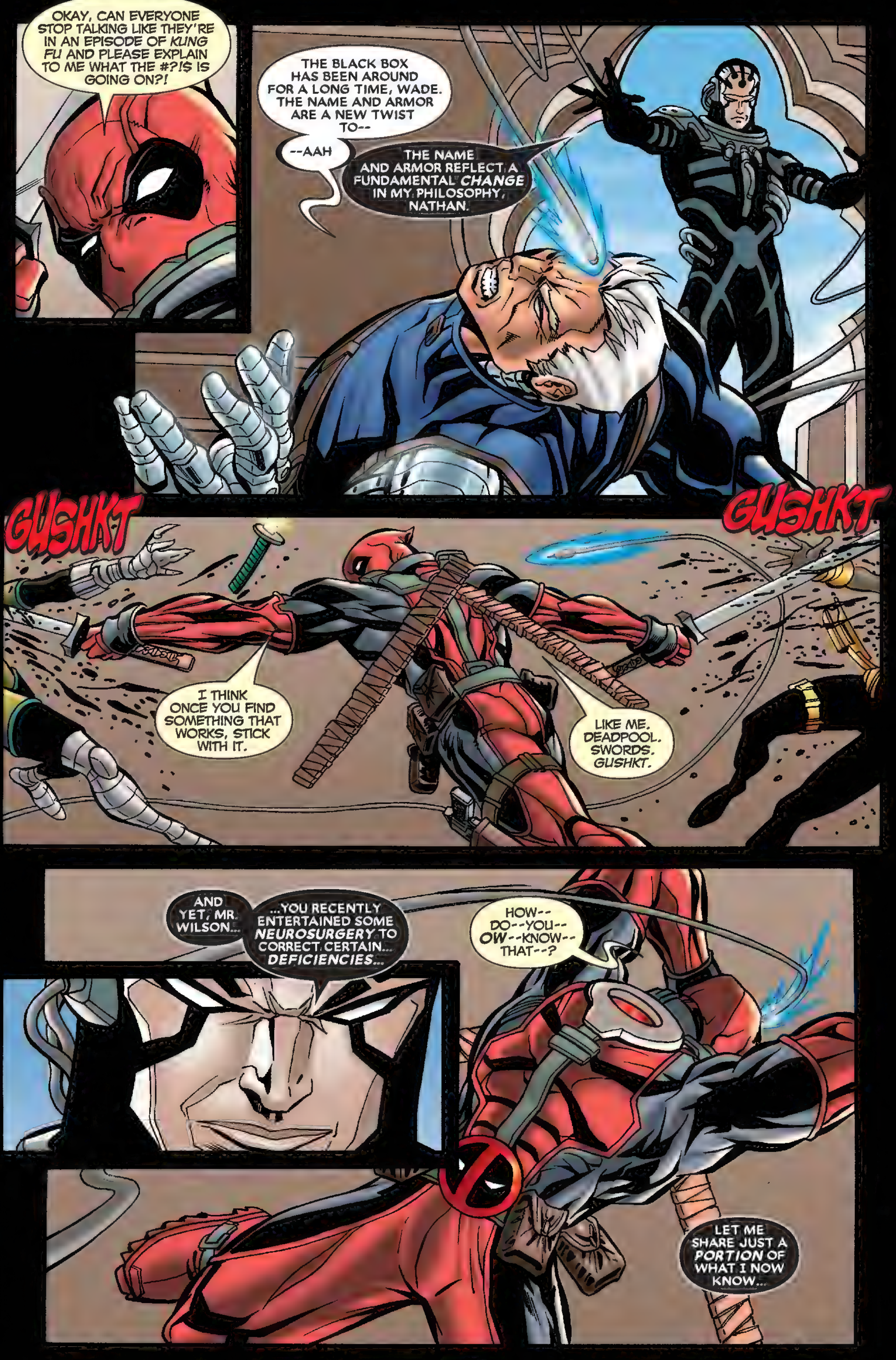

PRESTODIGIMAGIC-- EXEUCTIVES' PORN FILES, DIPLOMATS' KICKBACKS, AND BILL GATES' BANK ACCOUNTS!
I GET IT!
SO WHY WAS THAT SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND?
SO WHY WAS THAT SO HARD TO EXPLAIN?
BY THE WAY-- EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN HIT HARDER BY RAIN--
--GOOD SPARRING.
WAS MISSING SOMETHING...
MASSAGE OIL?
DID I SAY THAT OUT LOUD?
THAT'S WHAT WAS MISSING...
BEN GAY... STAT!
IF YOU BOYS ARE QUITE THROUGH EROTICIZING...?
I'M DONE. WADE--?
I'M GOOD.

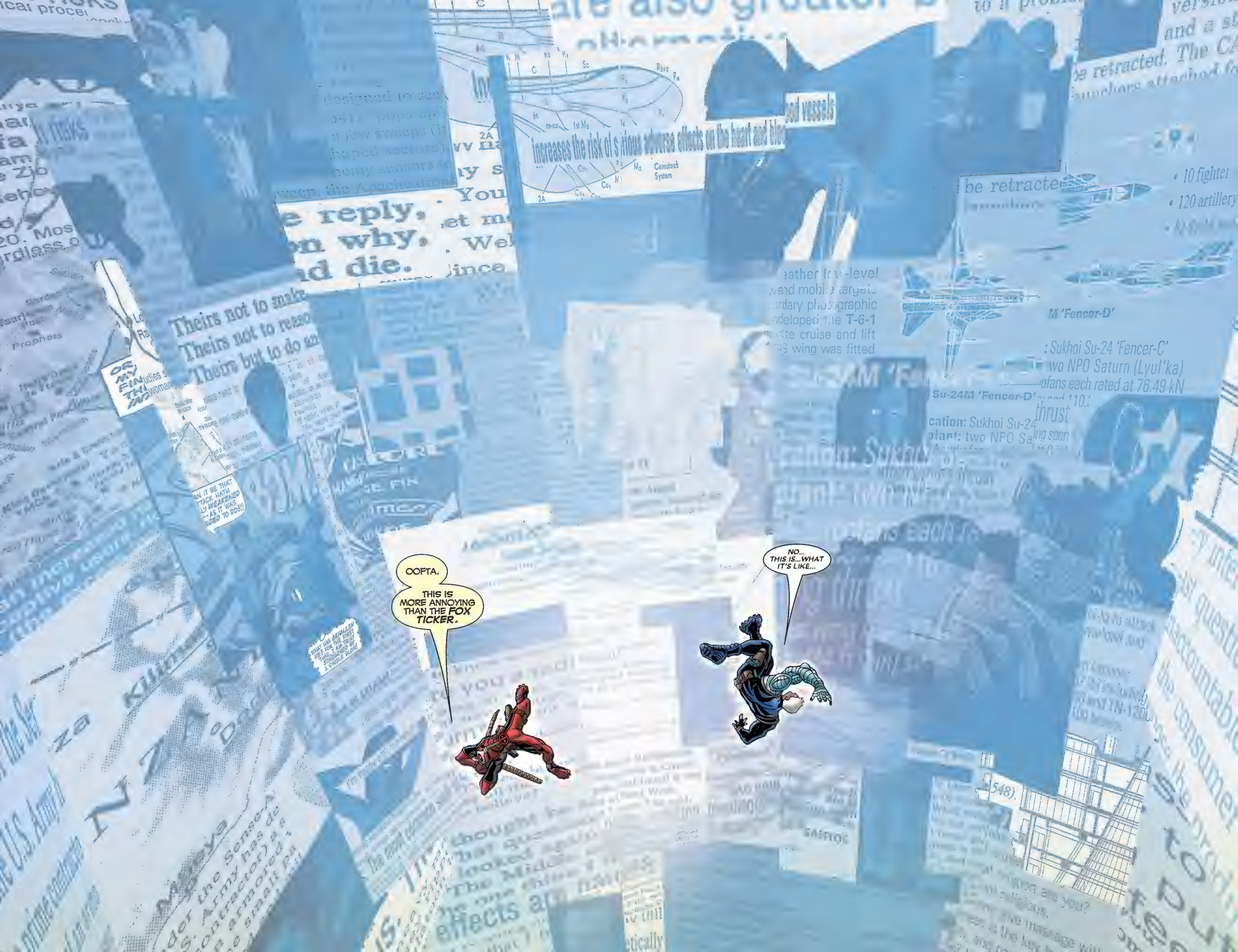

I DID WHAT YOU ASKED. I FILED A FLIGHT PLAN TO *NEW DELHI* FOR THE *SKIMMER JET*.
AND BY THE WAY, *JOHANN* SAID IF YOU DITCH ANOTHER ONE LIKE YOU DID IN *LONG ISLAND*, YOU'LL BE CRUCIFIED FOR THE SECOND TIME.
IS HE MY *HEAD OF SECURITY* OR MY MOTHER?
I'M SURE *RAND-MEACHUM* WILL RETURN IT ONCE THEY'RE FINISHED REVERSE-ENGINEERING ITS DESIGN.
YOU SOUND RATHER RELAXED ABOUT THAT.
THE WORLD COULD USE MORE SELF-SUBSISTING *SOLAR-POWERED VEHICLES*.
AND YOU DON'T MIND THAT RAND-MEACHUM WILL PROFIT FROM THAT?
SOMEONE *ALWAYS* PROFITS FROM SOMETHING.
I'M SORRY, I IMAGINE THAT TO FORMER REPORTER, *IRENE MERRYWEATHER*, THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A SCOOP, IS IT?
WE NEVER SAY "SCOOP" ANYMORE.
EXCLUSIVE, IS IT?
CLOSER. SPEAKING OF, *NATE*...WHY FILE THAT FLIGHT PLAN?
IF THE PERSON WHO HIRED THE THIEF THAT STOLE THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE SEES THAT INFORMATION, THEY'LL KNOW YOU'RE COMING.
DID THAT MAKE SENSE?
TO ME, IT DID.
AND SPEAKING OF... DOES IT MAKE SENSE FOR YOU TO *ALWAYS* BE SHEDDING YOUR CLOTHES AROUND ME?
I'M SORRY. IN MY *FUTURE*, SOLDIERS OF BOTH SEXES FOUGHT, BATHED AND DRESSED SIDE BY SIDE.
WELL, LET'S HOPE THE EVANGELICALS WIN THIS ONE...

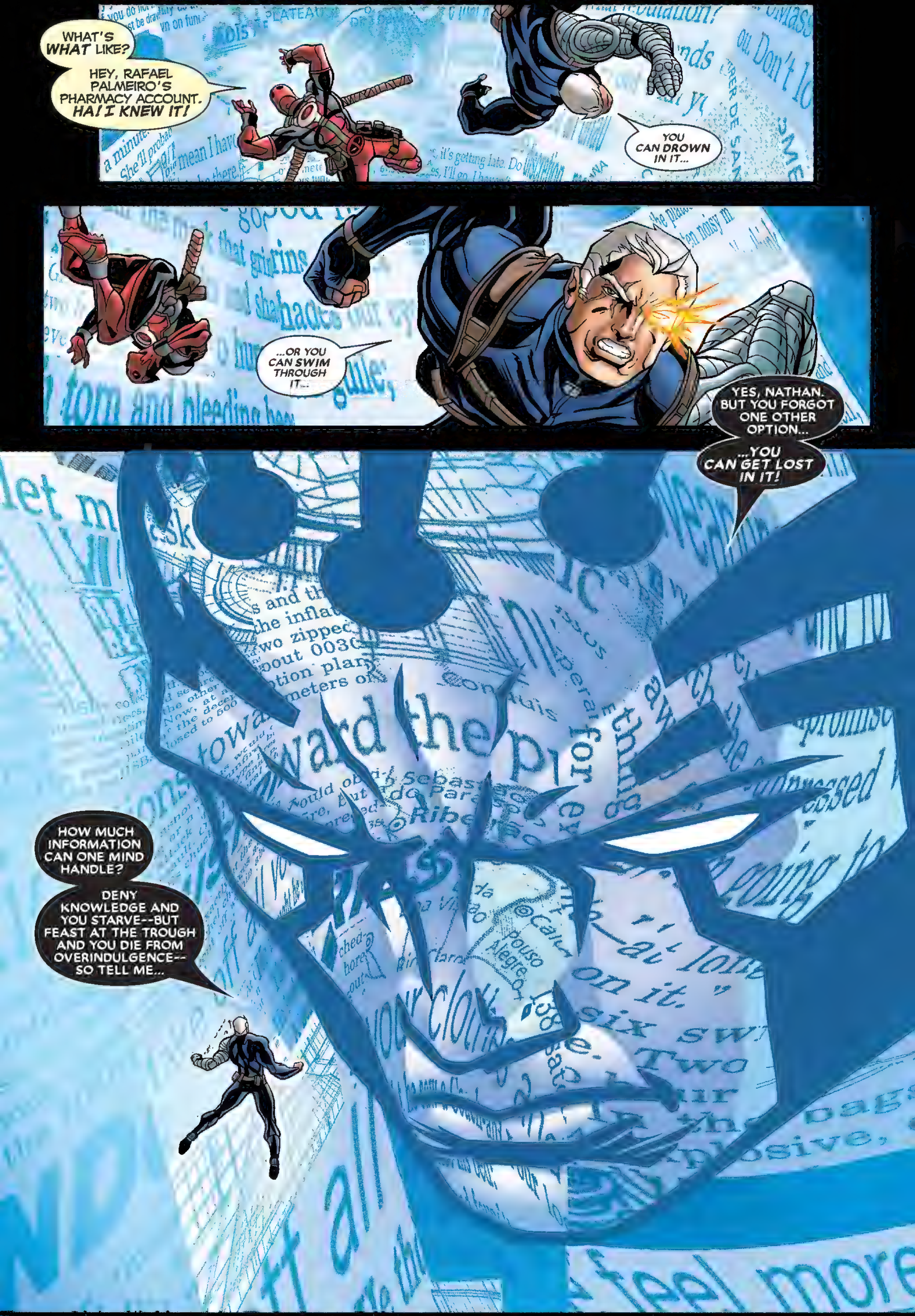

WHAT WAS THAT?
NOTHING. SO, THE FLIGHT PLAN--?
I WANT THE **BLACK BOX** TO KNOW WE'RE COMING.
STILL NOT GETTING IT. OH GOD, I'M BECOMING AS DENSE AS **DEADPOOL...**
HOW DO YOU SURPRISE ***THE MAN WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING?***
BY KNOWING SOMETHING HE DOESN'T? HE EXPECTS YOU TO COME ON THE FLIGHT YOU CLEARED--
--BUT YOU AND ***DEADPOOL...***
"WILL ALREADY BE THERE..."
NEW DELHI.
A FLIGHT PLAN FROM PROVIDENCE ISLAND HAS JUST BEEN FILED WITH NEW DELHI TRAFFIC CONTROL.
YOU THOUGHT CABLE WOULD FIGURE OUT WHO HIRED ***SHEN KUEI*** TO STEAL THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE.
WORTH THE WAIT. I'VE BEEN DYING FOR A REMATCH WITH DEADPOOL--

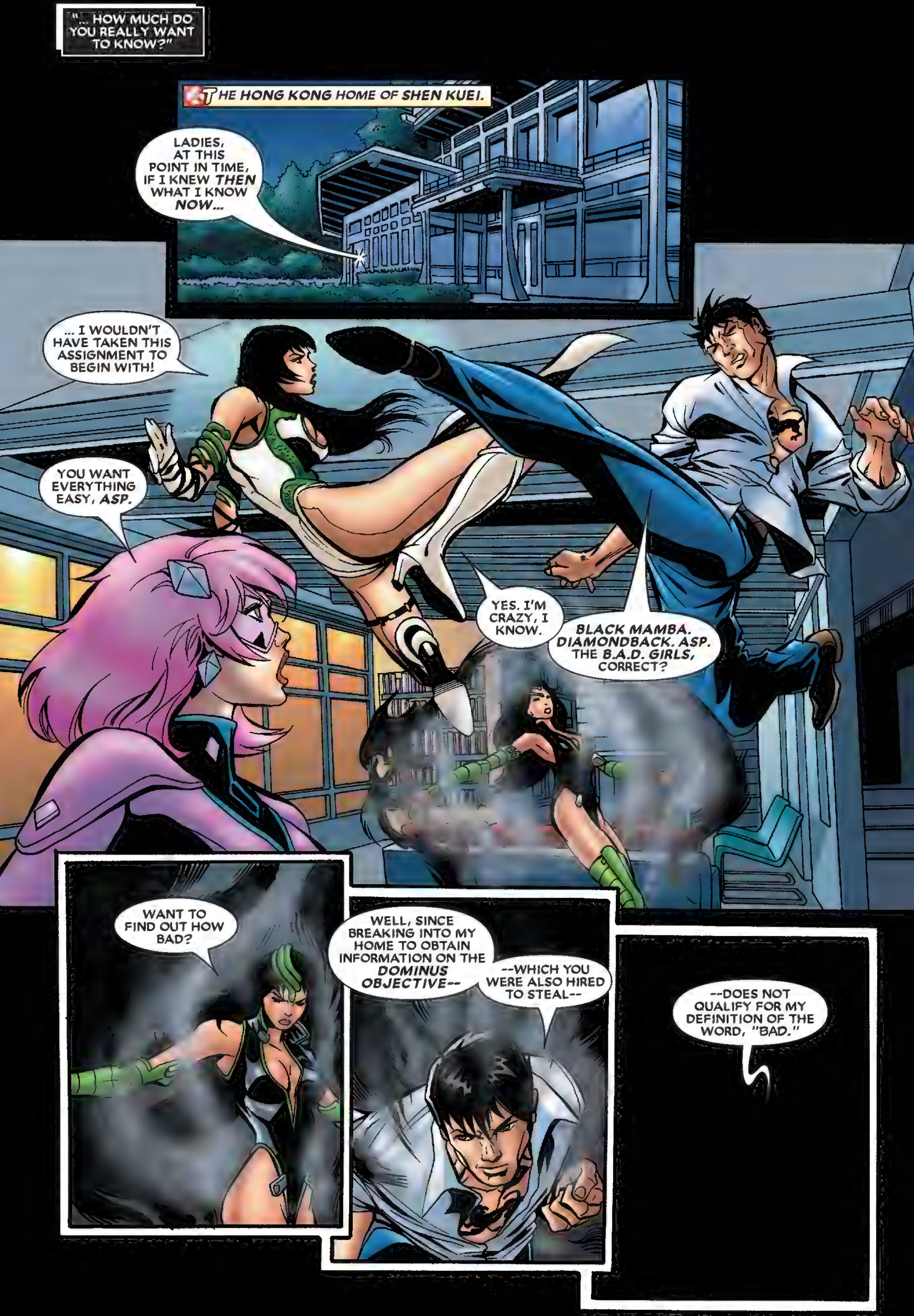

--EVER SINCE HE KILLED ME!
WAIT'S OVER.
RIVE. MERCENARY BLADE-ARTIST.
MAKESHIFT. TECHNO-CONSTRUCT ASSEMBLER.
I THINK I KILLED THEM BOTH ONCE BEFORE.
YOU DID.
OKAY.
THAT BODES WELL FOR THIS FIGHT THEN...

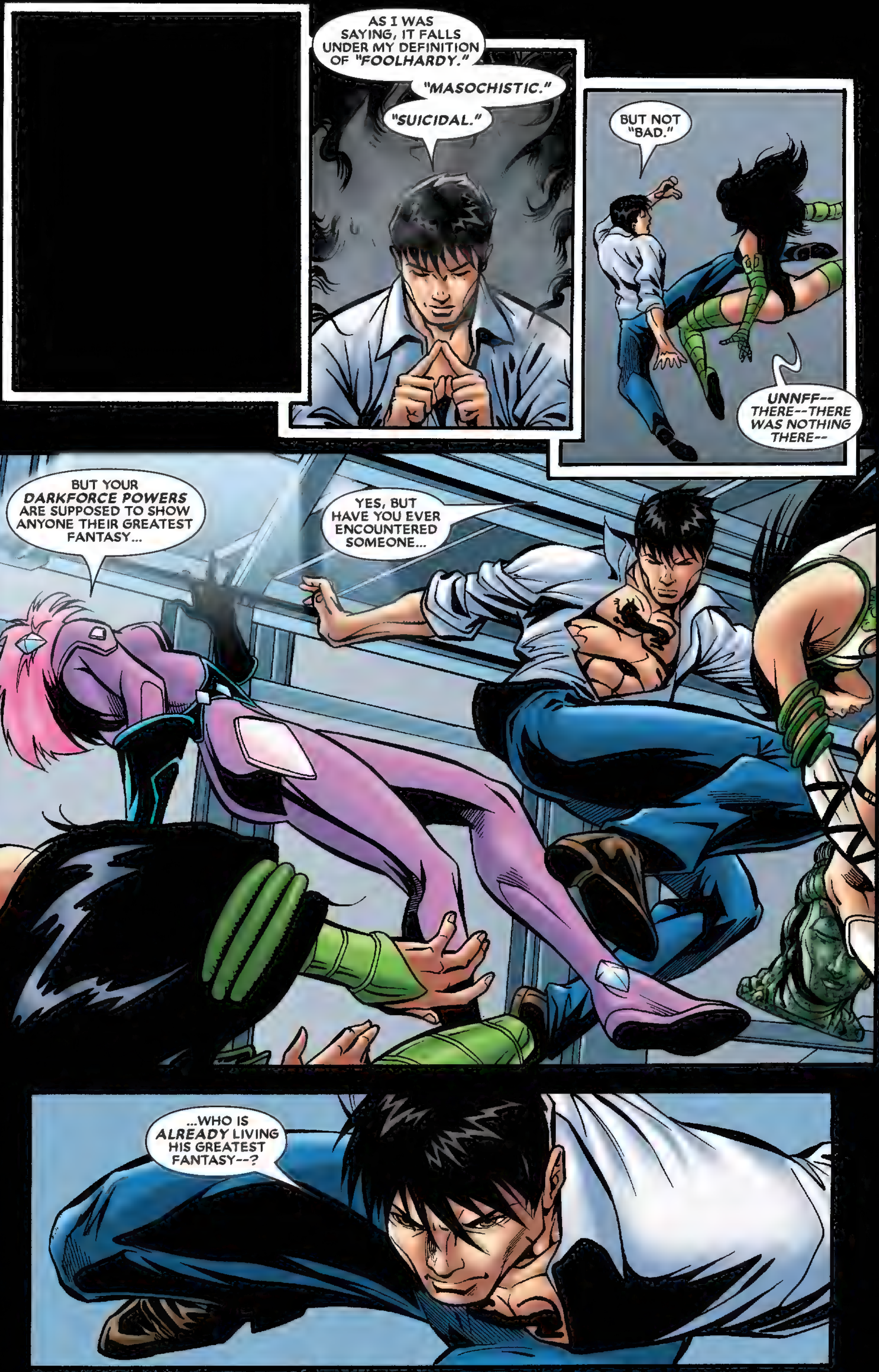

YAAAH!
I SAW KILL BILL, TOO. WELL, I ONLY SAW KILL BILL ONE, NOT TWO, BUT I SAW IT ALSO--
--WHICH WAS IN RESPONSE TO YOU GOING ALL YAAAH!
HE STILL WON'T SHUT UP!
GETTING KILLED BY HIM WAS ACTUALLY A RELIEF!
HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF? D-E-A-D-P-O-L!
I KNOW WHO IS INSIDE THAT ARMOR...
DO YOU NOW, NATHAN?
YOU LOST FIRST-NAME RIGHTS WITH ME WHEN YOU DOUBLE-CROSSED ME!
EX-QUEEZE ME? DID I MISS AN EPISODE OR SOMETHING?
DID HE MISSPELL HIS OWN NAME?
ROLAIDS ONLY HAS SEVEN LETTERS.
KILL HIM. NOW. PLEASE!
YOU PRESUME TO KNOW THE MAN INSIDE THE SHELL...
I PRESUME TO KNOW THE SHELL IS ALL YOU'RE GOOD FOR!

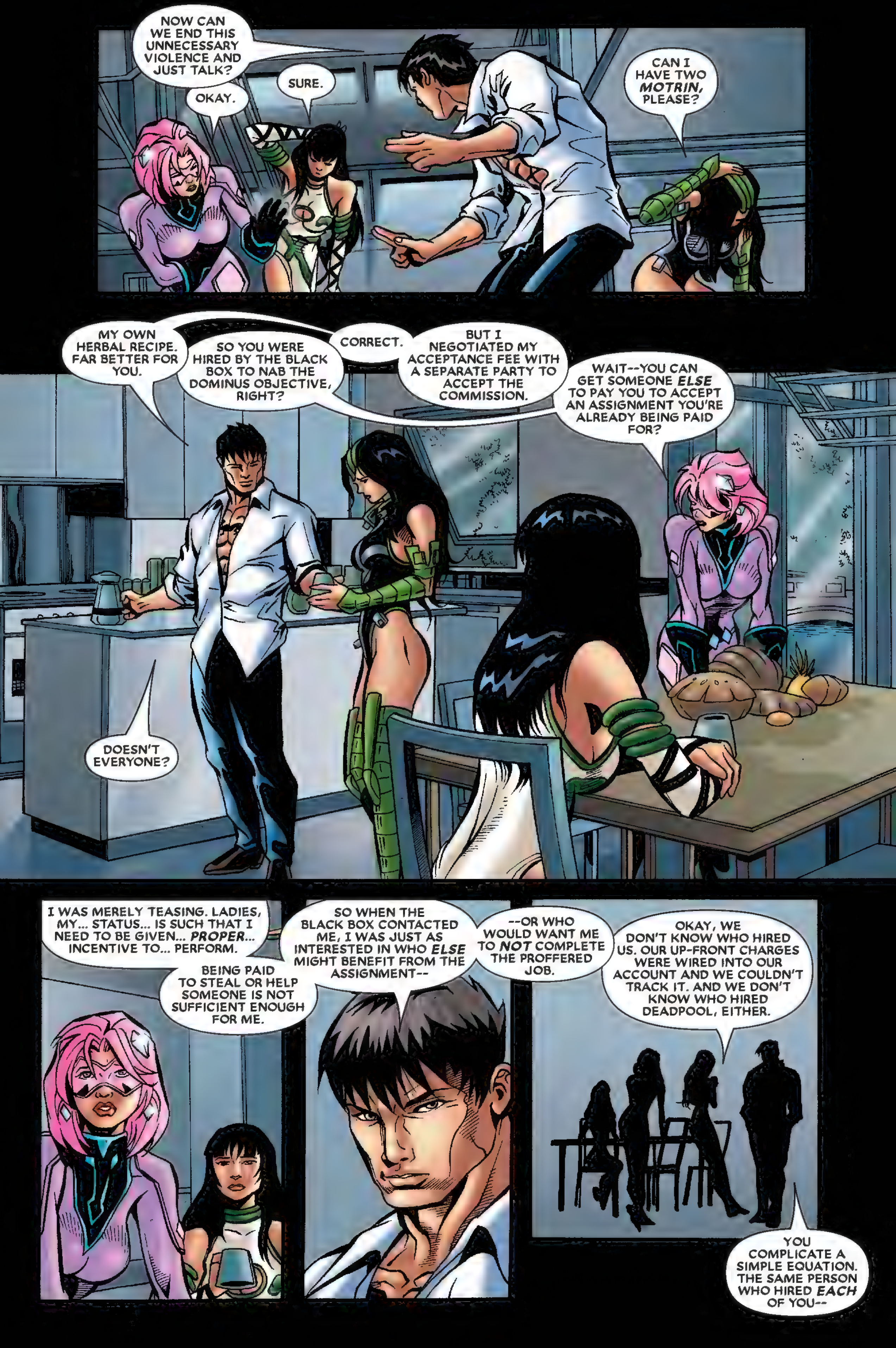

OKAY, CAN EVERYONE STOP TALKING LIKE THEY'RE IN AN EPISODE OF *KUNG FU* AND PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT THE #?!$ IS GOING ON?!
THE BLACK BOX HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME, WADE. THE NAME AND ARMOR ARE A NEW TWIST TO--
--AAH
THE NAME AND ARMOR REFLECT A FUNDAMENTAL *CHANGE* IN MY PHILOSOPHY, NATHAN.
GUSHKT
GUSHKT
I THINK ONCE YOU FIND SOMETHING THAT WORKS, STICK WITH IT.
LIKE ME. DEADPOOL. SWORDS. GUSHKT.
AND YET, MR. WILSON...
...YOU RECENTLY ENTERTAINED SOME *NEUROSURGERY* TO CORRECT CERTAIN... *DEFICIENCIES*...
HOW-- DO--YOU-- *OW*--KNOW-- THAT--?
LET ME SHARE JUST A *PORTION* OF WHAT I NOW KNOW...

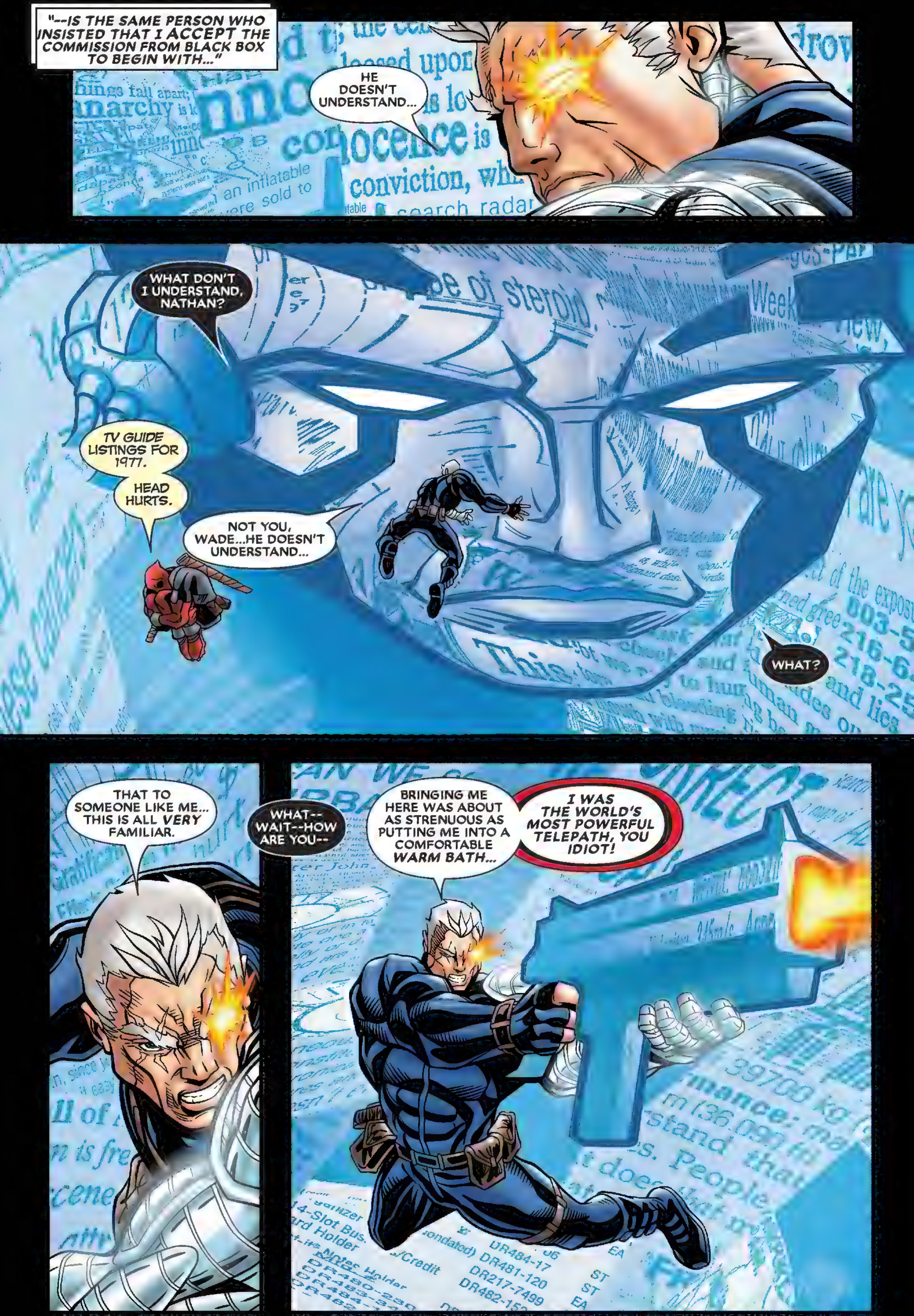

OOFTA.
THIS IS MORE ANNOYING THAN THE *FOX TICKER.*
NO... THIS IS...WHAT IT'S LIKE...

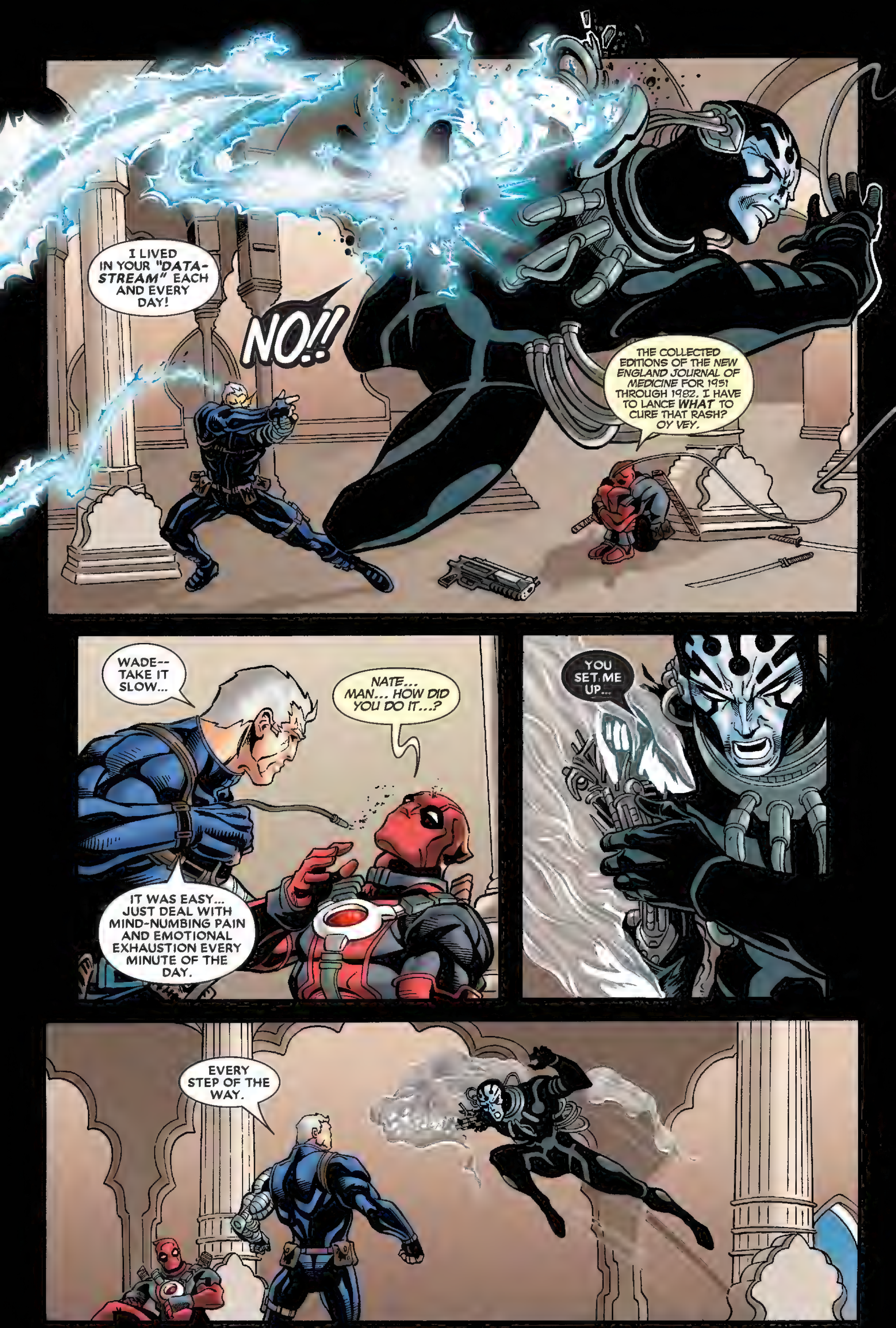

WHAT'S *WHAT* LIKE?
HEY, RAFAEL PALMEIRO'S PHARMACY ACCOUNT. *HA! I KNEW IT!*
YOU CAN DROWN IN IT...
...OR YOU CAN SWIM THROUGH IT...
YES, NATHAN. BUT YOU FORGOT ONE OTHER OPTION...
...YOU CAN GET LOST IN IT!
HOW MUCH INFORMATION CAN ONE MIND HANDLE?
DENY KNOWLEDGE AND YOU STARVE--BUT FEAST AT THE TROUGH AND YOU DIE FROM OVERINDULGENCE-- SO TELL ME...

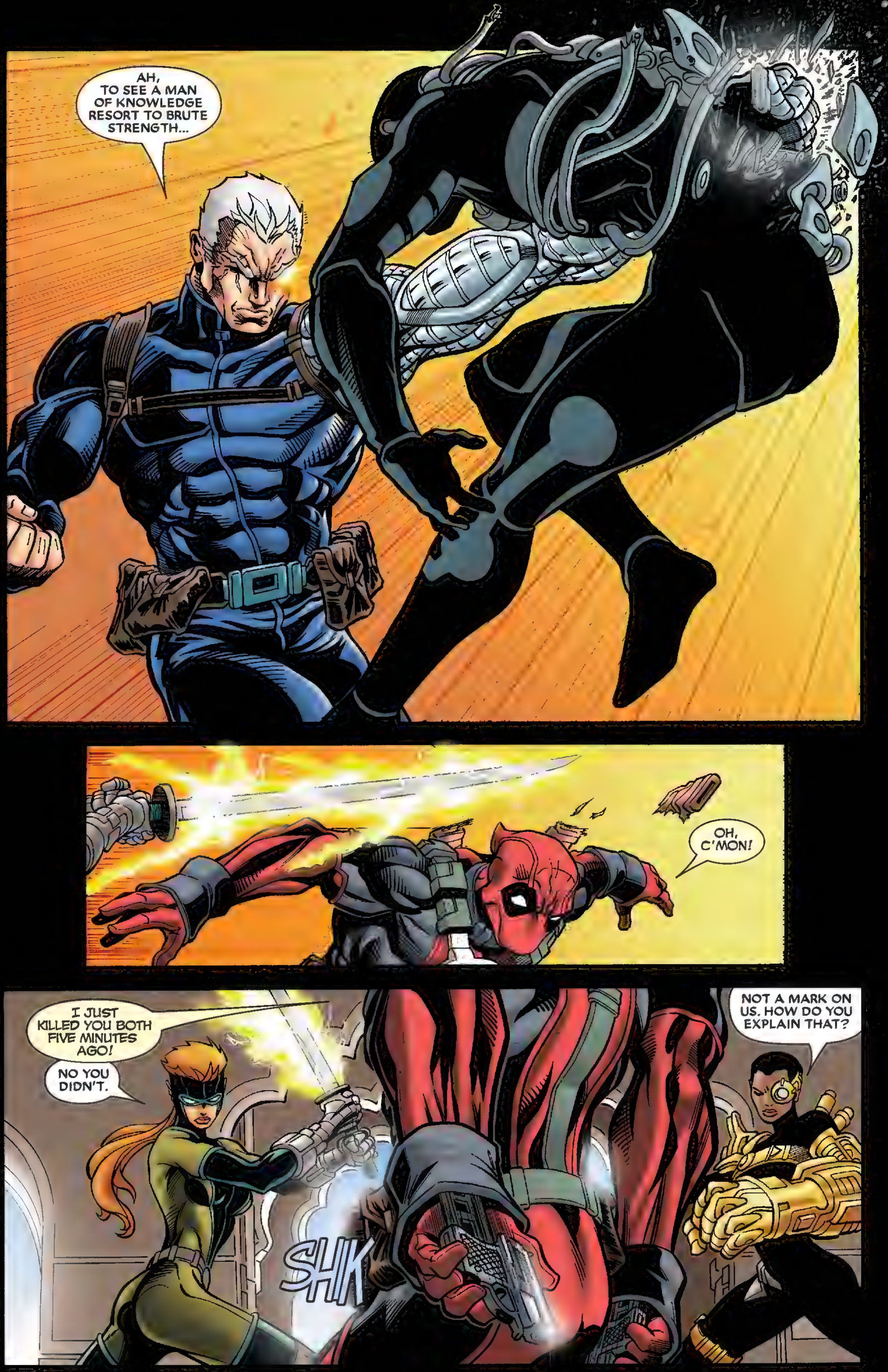

"... HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?"
THE HONG KONG HOME OF SHEN KUEI.
LADIES, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, IF I KNEW *THEN* WHAT I KNOW *NOW*...
... I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THIS ASSIGNMENT TO BEGIN WITH!
YOU WANT EVERYTHING EASY, *ASP.*
YES. I'M CRAZY, I KNOW.
BLACK MAMBA. DIAMONDBACK. ASP. THE *B.A.D. GIRLS,* CORRECT?
WANT TO FIND OUT HOW BAD?
WELL, SINCE BREAKING INTO MY HOME TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE *DOMINUS OBJECTIVE--*
--WHICH YOU WERE ALSO HIRED TO STEAL--
--DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR MY DEFINITION OF THE WORD, "BAD."

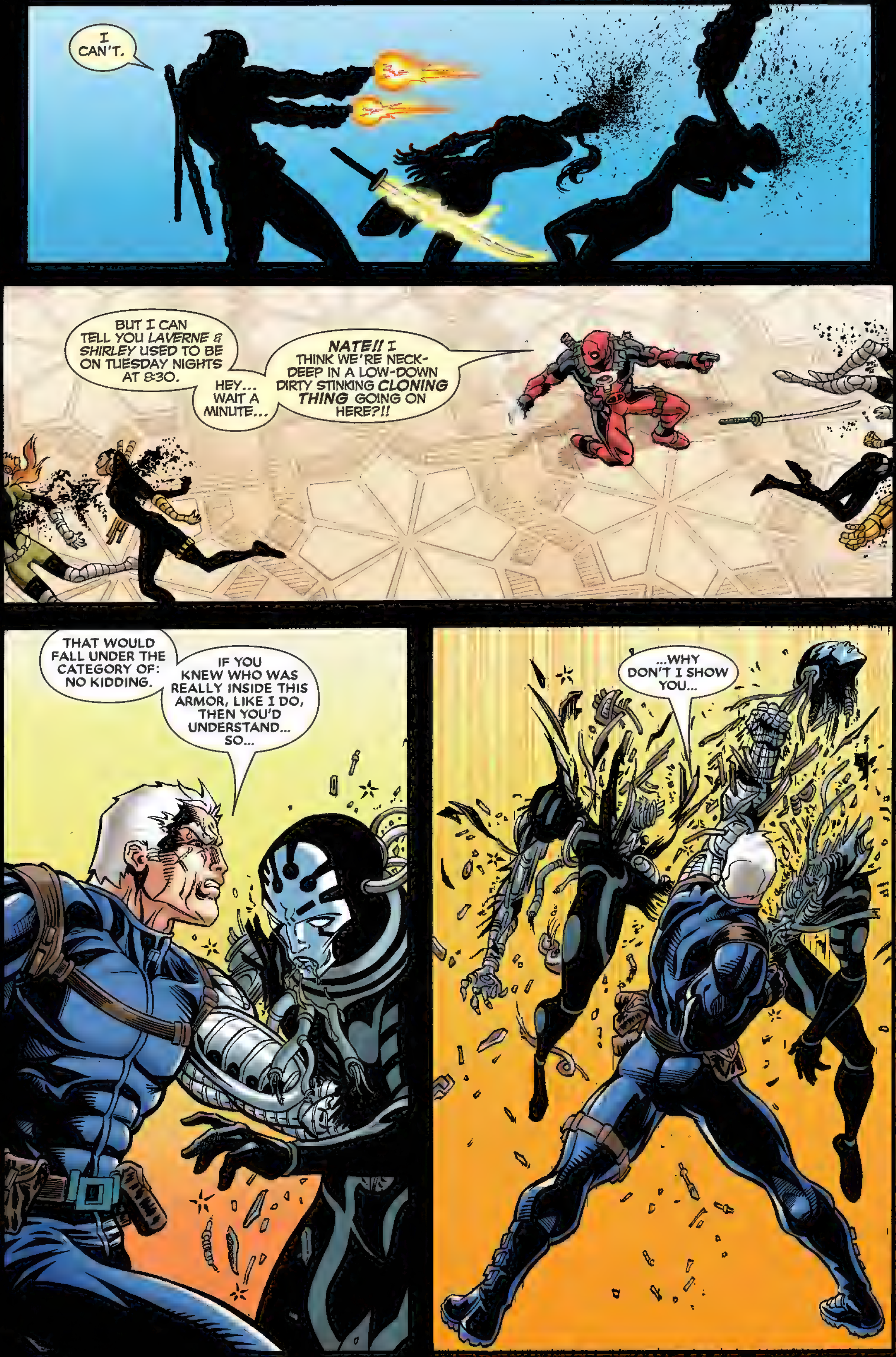

AS I WAS SAYING, IT FALLS UNDER MY DEFINITION OF *"FOOLHARDY."*
"MASOCHISTIC."
"SUICIDAL."
BUT NOT "BAD."
UNNFF-- THERE--THERE WAS NOTHING THERE--
BUT YOUR *DARKFORCE POWERS* ARE SUPPOSED TO SHOW ANYONE THEIR GREATEST FANTASY...
YES, BUT HAVE YOU EVER ENCOUNTERED SOMEONE...
...WHO IS *ALREADY* LIVING HIS GREATEST FANTASY--?

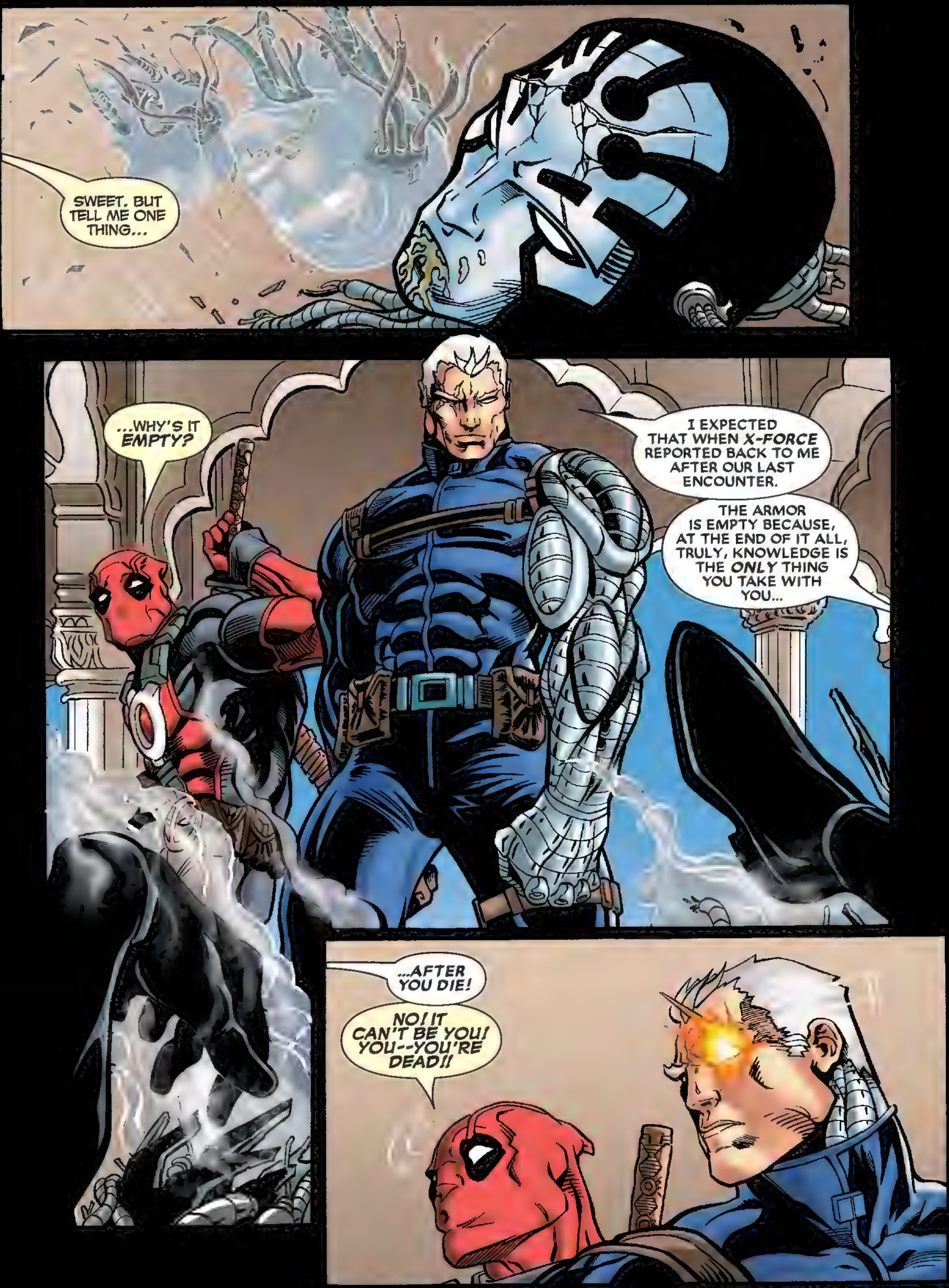

NOW CAN WE END THIS UNNECESSARY VIOLENCE AND JUST TALK?
OKAY.
SURE.
CAN I HAVE TWO *MOTRIN*, PLEASE?
MY OWN HERBAL RECIPE. FAR BETTER FOR YOU.
SO YOU WERE HIRED BY THE BLACK BOX TO NAB THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE, RIGHT?
CORRECT.
BUT I NEGOTIATED MY ACCEPTANCE FEE WITH A SEPARATE PARTY TO ACCEPT THE COMMISSION.
WAIT--YOU CAN GET SOMEONE *ELSE* TO PAY YOU TO ACCEPT AN ASSIGNMENT YOU'RE ALREADY BEING PAID FOR?
DOESN'T EVERYONE?
I WAS MERELY TEASING. LADIES, MY... STATUS... IS SUCH THAT I NEED TO BE GIVEN... *PROPER*... INCENTIVE TO... PERFORM.
BEING PAID TO STEAL OR HELP SOMEONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT ENOUGH FOR ME.
SO WHEN THE BLACK BOX CONTACTED ME, I WAS JUST AS INTERESTED IN WHO *ELSE* MIGHT BENEFIT FROM THE ASSIGNMENT--
--OR WHO WOULD WANT ME TO *NOT* COMPLETE THE PROFFERED JOB.
OKAY, WE DON'T KNOW WHO HIRED US. OUR UP-FRONT CHARGES WERE WIRED INTO OUR ACCOUNT AND WE COULDN'T TRACK IT. AND WE DON'T KNOW WHO HIRED DEADPOOL, EITHER.
YOU COMPLICATE A SIMPLE EQUATION. THE SAME PERSON WHO HIRED *EACH* OF YOU--


"--IS THE SAME PERSON WHO INSISTED THAT I *ACCEPT* THE COMMISSION FROM BLACK BOX TO BEGIN WITH..."
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND...
WHAT DON'T I UNDERSTAND, NATHAN?
TV GUIDE LISTINGS FOR 1977.
HEAD HURTS.
NOT YOU, WADE...HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND...
WHAT?
THAT TO SOMEONE LIKE ME... THIS IS ALL *VERY* FAMILIAR.
WHAT-- WAIT--HOW ARE YOU--
BRINGING ME HERE WAS ABOUT AS STRENUOUS AS PUTTING ME INTO A COMFORTABLE *WARM BATH...*
I WAS THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL TELEPATH, YOU IDIOT!


I LIVED IN YOUR "DATA-STREAM" EACH AND EVERY DAY!
NO!!
THE COLLECTED EDITIONS OF THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE FOR 1951 THROUGH 1982. I HAVE TO LANCE WHAT TO CURE THAT RASH? OY VEY.
WADE-- TAKE IT SLOW...
NATE... MAN... HOW DID YOU DO IT...?
IT WAS EASY... JUST DEAL WITH MIND-NUMBING PAIN AND EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY.
YOU SET ME UP...
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.


AH, TO SEE A MAN OF KNOWLEDGE RESORT TO BRUTE STRENGTH...
OH, C'MON!
I JUST KILLED YOU BOTH FIVE MINUTES AGO!
NO YOU DIDN'T.
NOT A MARK ON US. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?
SHIK


I CAN'T.
BUT I CAN TELL YOU *LAVERNE & SHIRLEY* USED TO BE ON TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 8:30.
HEY... WAIT A MINUTE...
NATE!! I THINK WE'RE NECK-DEEP IN A LOW-DOWN DIRTY STINKING ***CLONING THING*** GOING ON HERE?!!
THAT WOULD FALL UNDER THE CATEGORY OF: NO KIDDING.
IF YOU KNEW WHO WAS REALLY INSIDE THIS ARMOR, LIKE I DO, THEN YOU'D UNDERSTAND... SO...
...WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU...


SWEET. BUT TELL ME ONE THING...
...WHY'S IT *EMPTY?*
I EXPECTED THAT WHEN *X-FORCE* REPORTED BACK TO ME AFTER OUR LAST ENCOUNTER.
THE ARMOR IS EMPTY BECAUSE, AT THE END OF IT ALL, TRULY, KNOWLEDGE IS THE *ONLY* THING YOU TAKE WITH YOU...
...AFTER YOU DIE!
NO! IT CAN'T BE YOU! YOU--YOU'RE DEAD!!

DEAR DEADPOOL

Hello, everyone. Cable here. I'm finally able to answer your letters without the need for name-calling, sarcasm or outright disdain often shown by Wade when he does this.

Wuss.

Shut up. Can't you ever just let me do this without interrupting?

Oh my sweet bleeding Quetzalcoatl – it's GALACTUS!

Please… just stop.

It is – LOOK! He is terrifying even whilst dressed in a metal skirt!

Wade, that whole Apocalypse-thing you used to distract me a few issue ago won't work again. I looked into it. You were lying.

Oh really? Lying because the information was wrong… or because the X-Office refused to reveal its dark, salacious secrets?

I'm just saying is all. So--some tough choice for a world-savior--check on that whole Apocalypse thing again and let me answer the dumb ol' letters, or ignore the possibility that the cataclysmic future as you know it could come to pass just because you felt like answering a comic book letters' page…?

…

See you next month, Nate…

Dear Deadpool,

I never got a chance to read the original series, but I'm loving *Cable & Deadpool*. Well, really, I only love the Deadpool part of it, but whatever.

I really just wanted to say... I love you, Deadpool. You are the best.

Nicieza is brilliant.
Rebecca H.

Nate says, "Thanks." I do, too, Becky. Can you write back and tell me what parts of me you love the most? Preferably in language that would make a MAX book blush? There you go, sweetie…

Dear Deadpool,

First off, once again, kudos for the brilliant comic. You manage to be both hardcore and hilarious. And that old guy, what's his name? He's all right too. Anyway, couple things:

1) So I was thinking about getting a tattoo of your logo. You know, the little red and black guy on your belt. I want to get a tattoo of that, but I can't decide where to get it. What do you think? Also, will I get sued and/or murdered for that? C'mon, that would totally burn that Shen Kuei guy, showin' off his little kitty tattoo all over the place like he's hardcore or something (don't tell him I said that).

2) I'm applying for film school, hopefully I'll start in like January. DO NOT let them make a Deadpool movie until I get out and can direct it. Pwetty pwease? Unless they're already doing it, in which case it better not suck.

3) Hey, how come we never see you dance?

4) You ever play that game Lemmings? That was a sweet game.

5) Still waiting for my WWDPD? t-shirts to ship. Then again, I'm also still waiting for the advice column. I could use some Deadpool advice in my life.

6) You should have your own TV show. Like a call-in talk show or something. That would be sweet.

7) Yeah I live in Pennsylvania. You should have asked me about Intercourse, PA. I've been there. I'm surprised you found a decent bar.

8) Naked Dinah Soar? Nice. I think the Great Lakes Avengers should guest spot in this book. Cuz that was just funny. Let's take a moment and reminisce on the hilarity that ensues with your guest spots. Black Panther? That was great. Bullseye? Where's he been? He's a little overdue for a guest spot. Oh wow, and I just remembered Batroc the Leaping Punchline. I don't remember ever seeing that guy beat anyone. And what was the deal with that dude with the bell on his head? What was his name? Doctor Bong? Wasn't that a Cheech and Chong movie? And where's Death been? That was one hot skeleton.

Anyway, yeah. Have fun slapping around Luke Cage and his buddy there!

Brendan H.

Oooh, numbered questions!

1) Might I recommend you get your Deadpool tattoo squarely across your butt? It'll give Shen Keui a pretty easy target to kick…

2) Well, we're holding out for Nicieza to script. Me to star and you to direct, so yeah, you can imagine Hollywood has this baby on a fast track…

3) You ever see that *Seinfeld* episode with Elaine dancin' -- ? `Nuff said.

4) Why don't you show me how it's played.

5) See #1 and #4, Brendan. That's some pretty sound advice to start…

6) Dang, that WOULD be sweet. I might have to convince Nicieza we can do an entire issue of me havin' my own talk show! Yeah… Patrick would love to draw that…

7) Well, we fudged a little. Nicieza's been there too, so he knew there weren't many bars to speak of. The lush. Then again, he was there with his family and I don't even want to ask…

8) I have had some fun guest-stars in my books, haven't I? Everyone wants to party with the `Pool! We got Spidey comin' up soon and maybe even Captain America from what I hear… also, apparently, Galactus is just around the corner (he's not, but that was just in case Nate was listening…)

Dear Deadpool,

I got to thinking the other day about recently defunct titles in the Marvel back catalogue. I can't help feeling that certain of its leading characters remain horribly missed and, also, in their short life spans never got a chance to encounter you.

To wit, I wonder if there is any chance that you could invite them over for a quick cup of tea and maybe an evisceration or two? I'm thinking of the feisty Satana, Topaz and Jennifer Kale. I'm sure they would keep you amused and they do appear to have an, as yet, unresolved case. Besides, more ladies in the comic breaks up the homoerotic tension between you and Cable. Not always a good thing I know but variety being the spice and all that!

Anyway, diving further into the vein of crossovers, aren't you by now overdue for appearances in *The Pulse*, *The Ultimates*, and more importantly, *The Young Avengers*? Although I have to warn you that if you DO pop up in the latter, you'll just have to leave that homoerotic tension at home for the day, let's just say it seems to cause a little bit of a hoo-haa.

So keep on trucking or whatever it is the young folk say these days and I hope that one day you find yourself bodysliding into a world populated entirely by Bea Arthurs. Oh BTW, MMM!

Uriel Walker

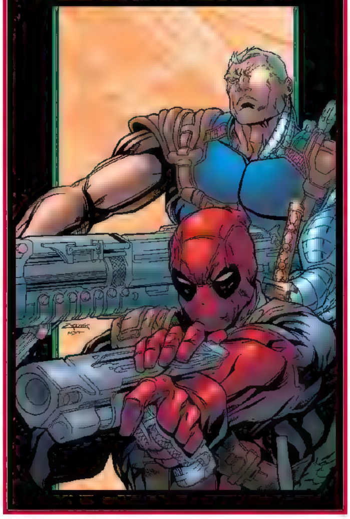
Satana? Now there's one old geek Nicieza hadn't thought of. Who better for the `Poolmeister to date than the devil's daughter? Can you believe Marvel used to publish a book called "Son of Satan" back in the `70's? God, that is funny. I mean – not God – no offense, I meant, "Man, that is funny."

Not capital M "man," like Him with a capital H.

Uhm… I don't think we'll be seeing Satana here anytime soon. She did have a smoking costume though, didn't she?

And you're asking me to guest-star in books called *The Pulse*, *The Ultimates* and *Young Avengers* AND check my homoerotic tension at the door? I think I'd split in half if I tried…

NEXT ISSUE:



That's all for this month, gang! Next issue we wrap up our "Bosum Buddies" storyline with some not-so-big-surprise revelations about Black Box, some pretty ugly clone-bashing and another dopey addition to our incredibly odd supporting cast.

See you then, `cause if I don't, I might have to come after you. Maybe tie you up. Make you watch DVD boxed sets of every season of "Who's The Boss…" Except don't think you'd cope, `cause I'd pixelate Alysa Milano anytime she came on screen…

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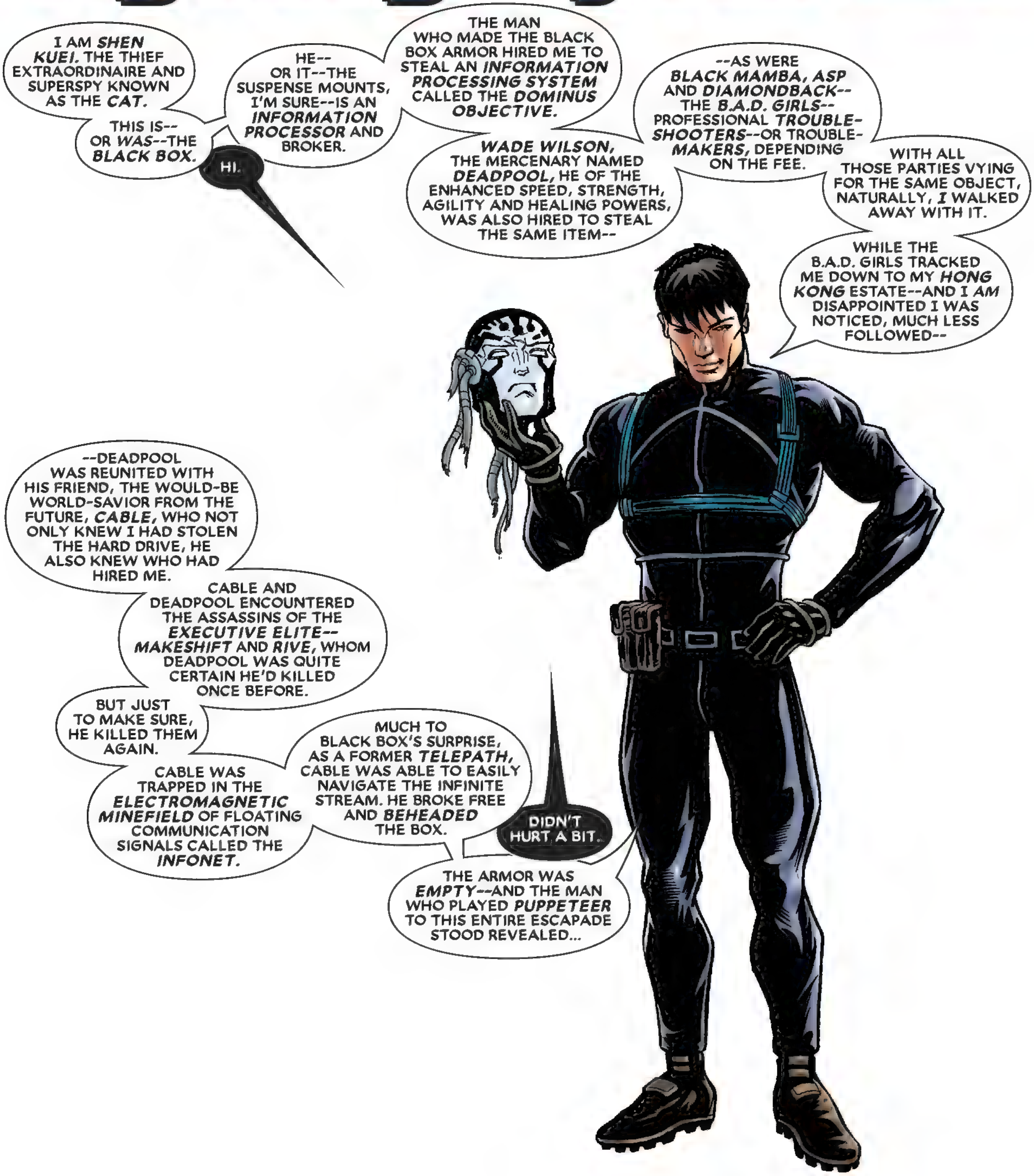
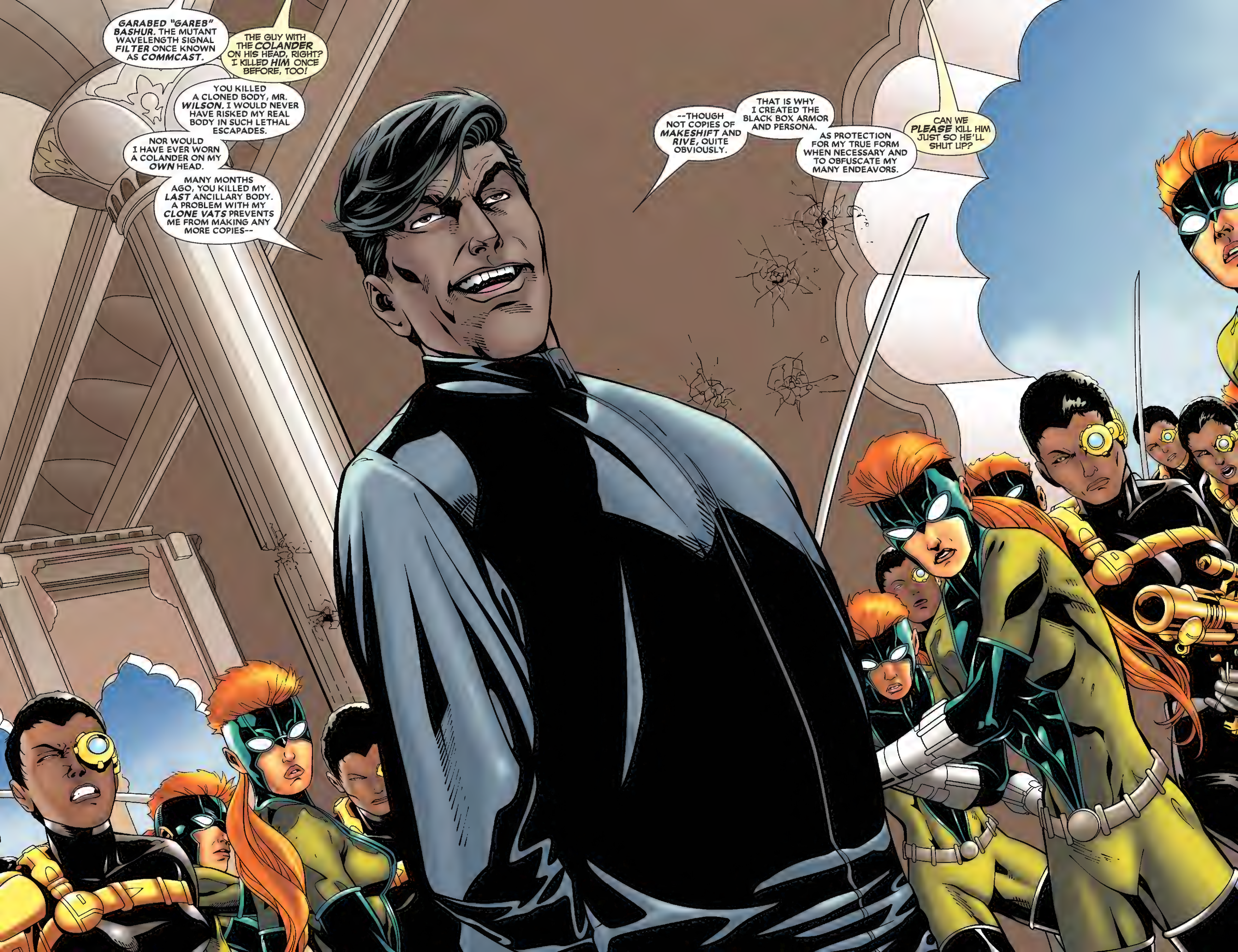
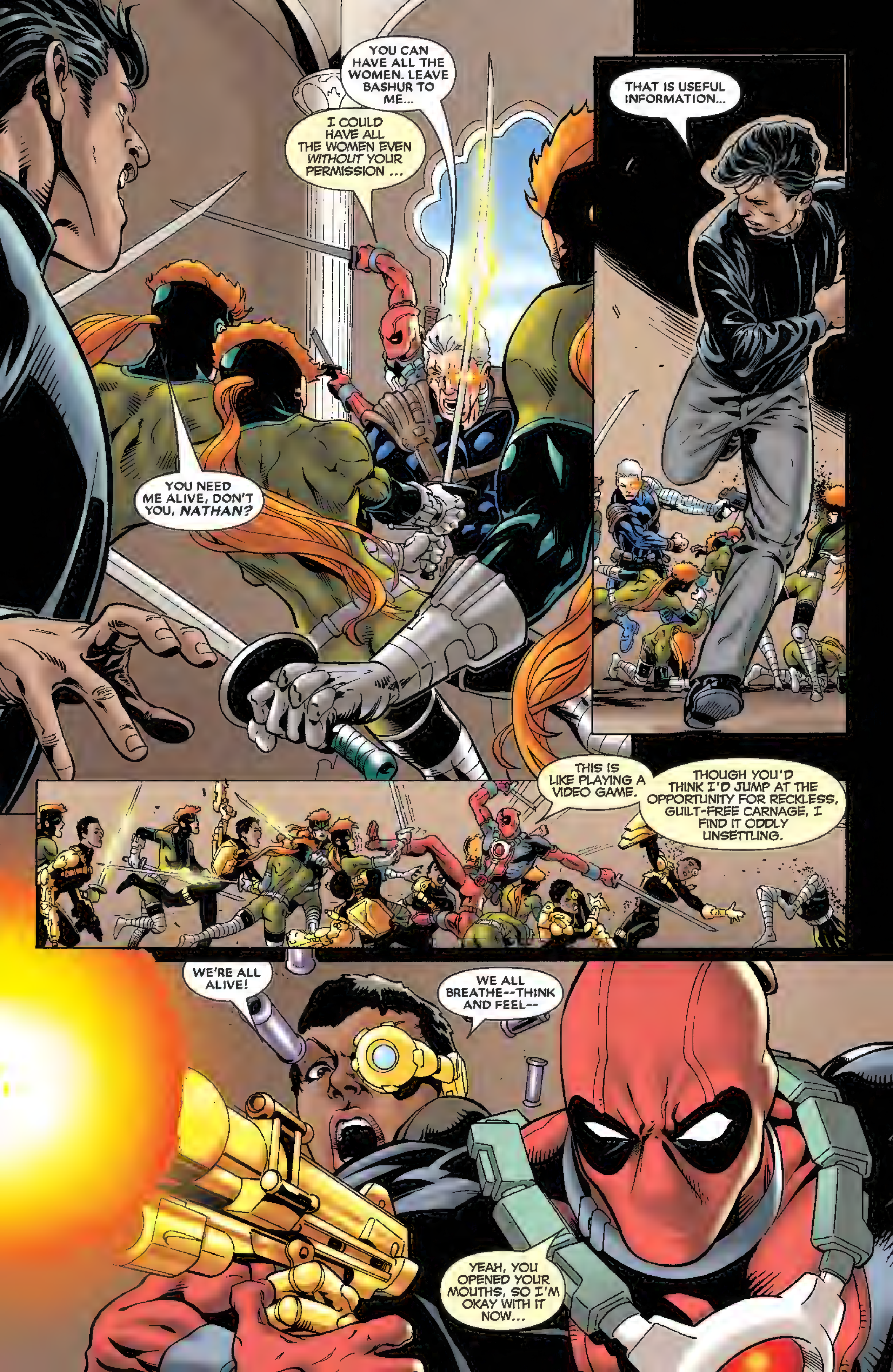
Fighting Myself

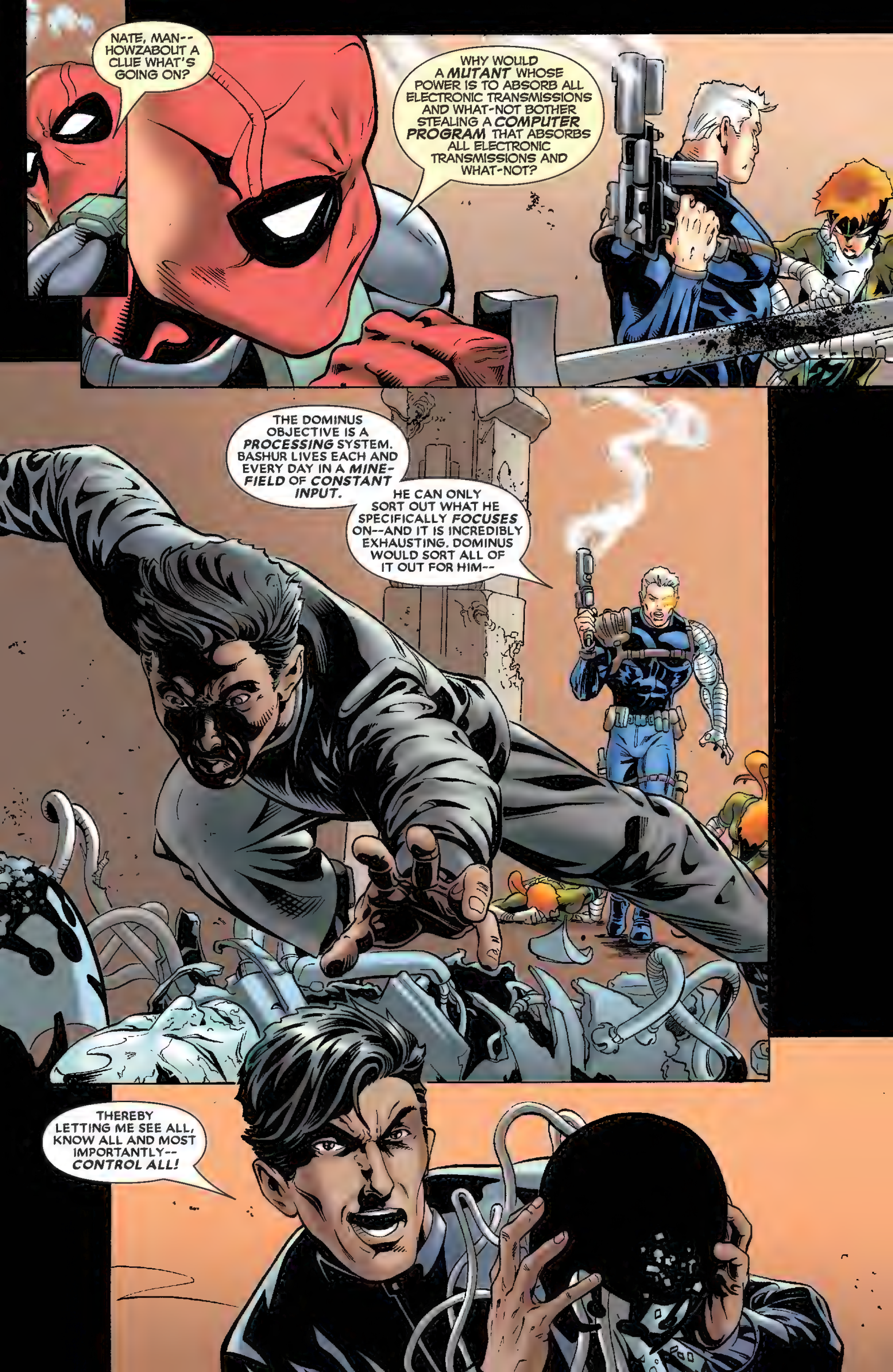
BOSOM BUDDIES

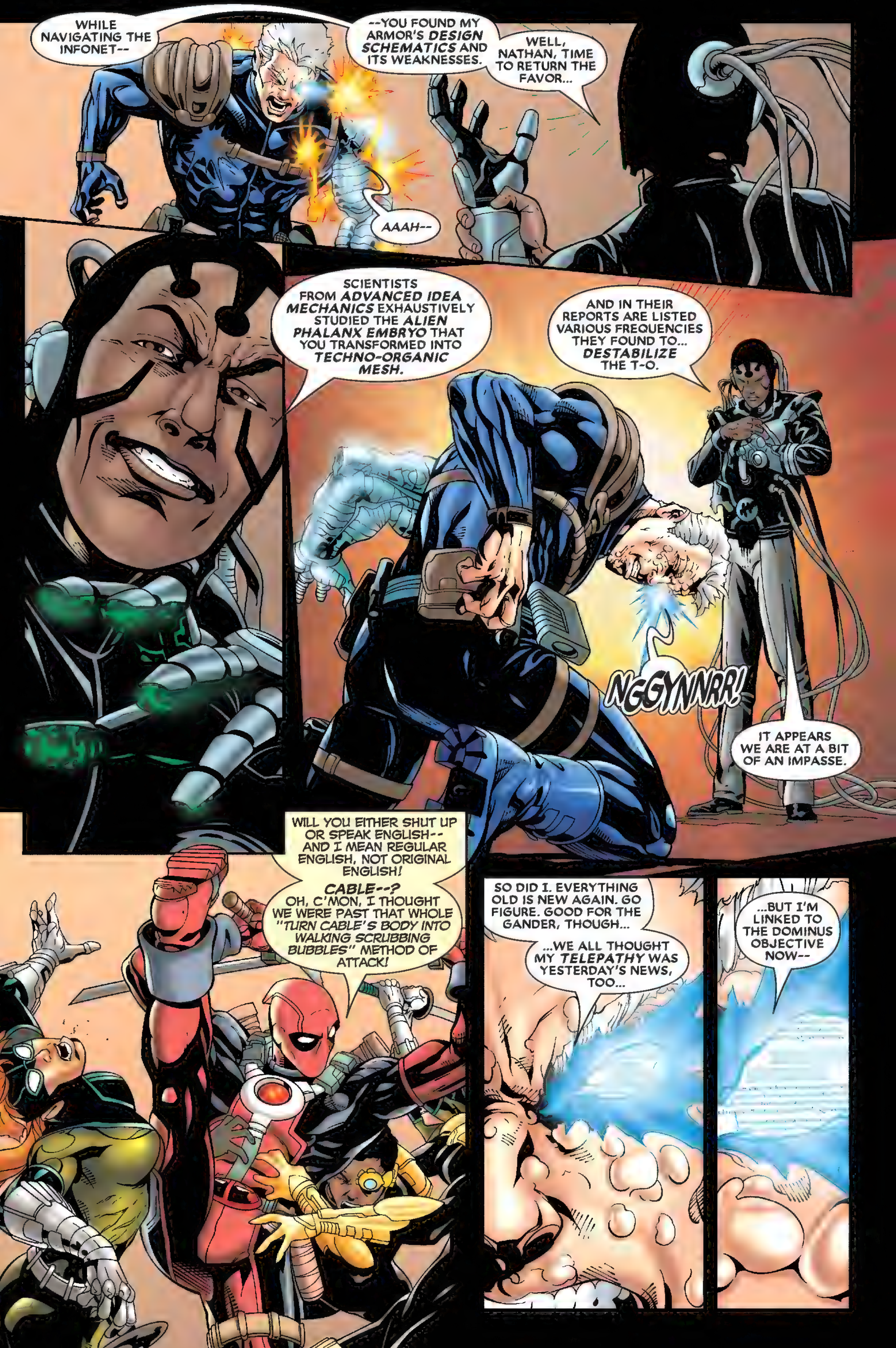
PART 4 OF 4

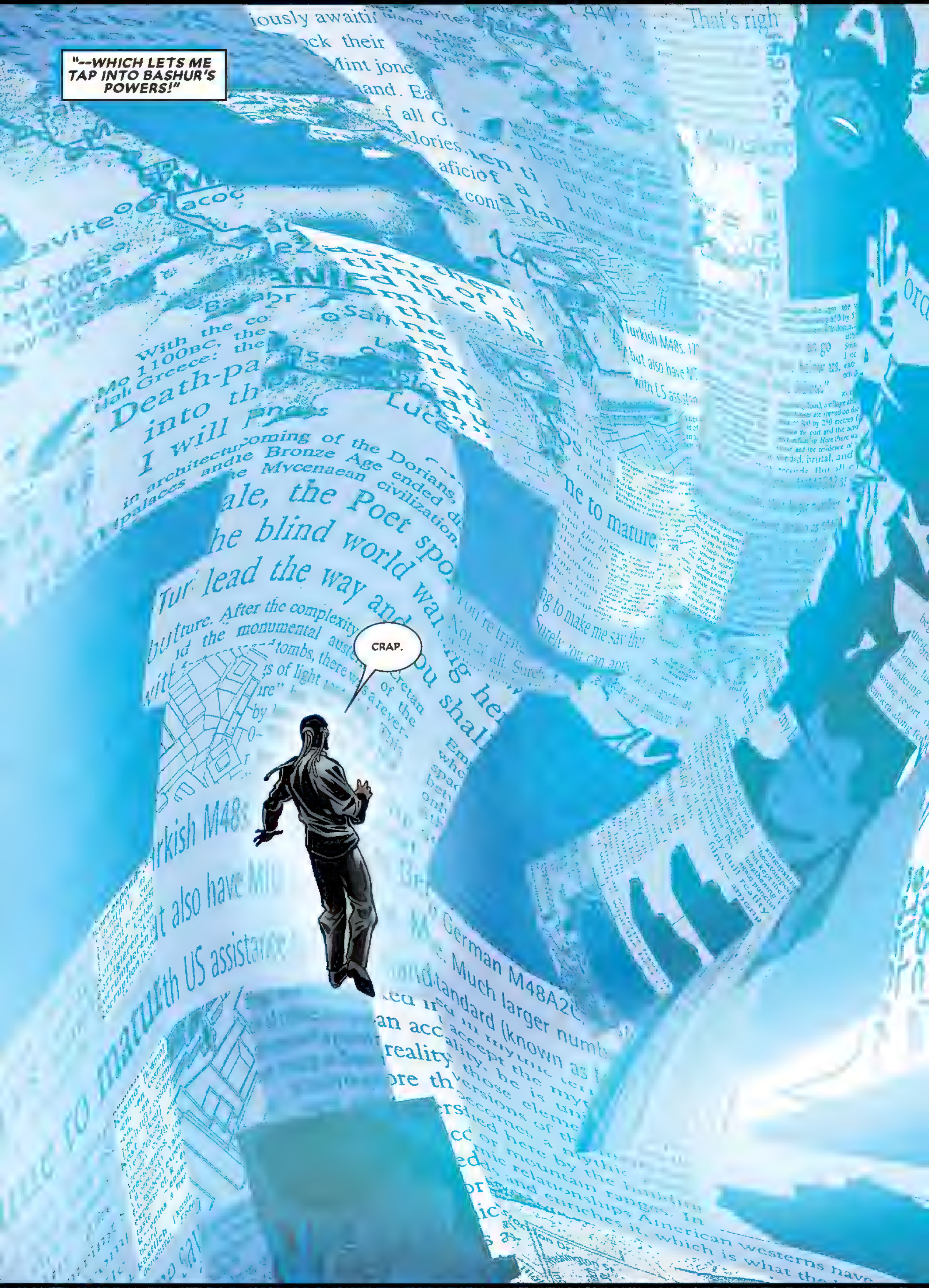

I AM SHEN KUEI. THE THIEF EXTRAORDINAIRE AND SUPERSPY KNOWN AS THE CAT.
THIS IS-- OR WAS--THE BLACK BOX.
HI.
HE-- OR IT--THE SUSPENSE MOUNTS, I'M SURE--IS AN INFORMATION PROCESSOR AND BROKER.
THE MAN WHO MADE THE BLACK BOX ARMOR HIRED ME TO STEAL AN INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM CALLED THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE.
WADE WILSON, THE MERCENARY NAMED DEADPOOL, HE OF THE ENHANCED SPEED, STRENGTH, AGILITY AND HEALING POWERS, WAS ALSO HIRED TO STEAL THE SAME ITEM--
--AS WERE BLACK MAMBA, ASP AND DIAMONDBACK--THE B.A.D. GIRLS--PROFESSIONAL TROUBLE-SHOOTERS--OR TROUBLE-MAKERS, DEPENDING ON THE FEE.
WITH ALL THOSE PARTIES VYING FOR THE SAME OBJECT, NATURALLY, I WALKED AWAY WITH IT.
WHILE THE B.A.D. GIRLS TRACKED ME DOWN TO MY HONG KONG ESTATE--AND I AM DISAPPOINTED I WAS NOTICED, MUCH LESS FOLLOWED--
--DEADPOOL WAS REUNITED WITH HIS FRIEND, THE WOULD-BE WORLD-SAVIOR FROM THE FUTURE, CABLE, WHO NOT ONLY KNEW I HAD STOLEN THE HARD DRIVE, HE ALSO KNEW WHO HAD HIRED ME.
CABLE AND DEADPOOL ENCOUNTERED THE ASSASSINS OF THE EXECUTIVE ELITE--MAKESHIFT AND RIVE, WHOM DEADPOOL WAS QUITE CERTAIN HE'D KILLED ONCE BEFORE.
BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE, HE KILLED THEM AGAIN.
CABLE WAS TRAPPED IN THE ELECTROMAGNETIC MINEFIELD OF FLOATING COMMUNICATION SIGNALS CALLED THE INFONET.
MUCH TO BLACK BOX'S SURPRISE, AS A FORMER TELEPATH, CABLE WAS ABLE TO EASILY NAVIGATE THE INFINITE STREAM. HE BROKE FREE AND BEHEADED THE BOX.
DIDN'T HURT A BIT.
THE ARMOR WAS EMPTY--AND THE MAN WHO PLAYED PUPPETEER TO THIS ENTIRE ESCAPADE STOOD REVEALED...

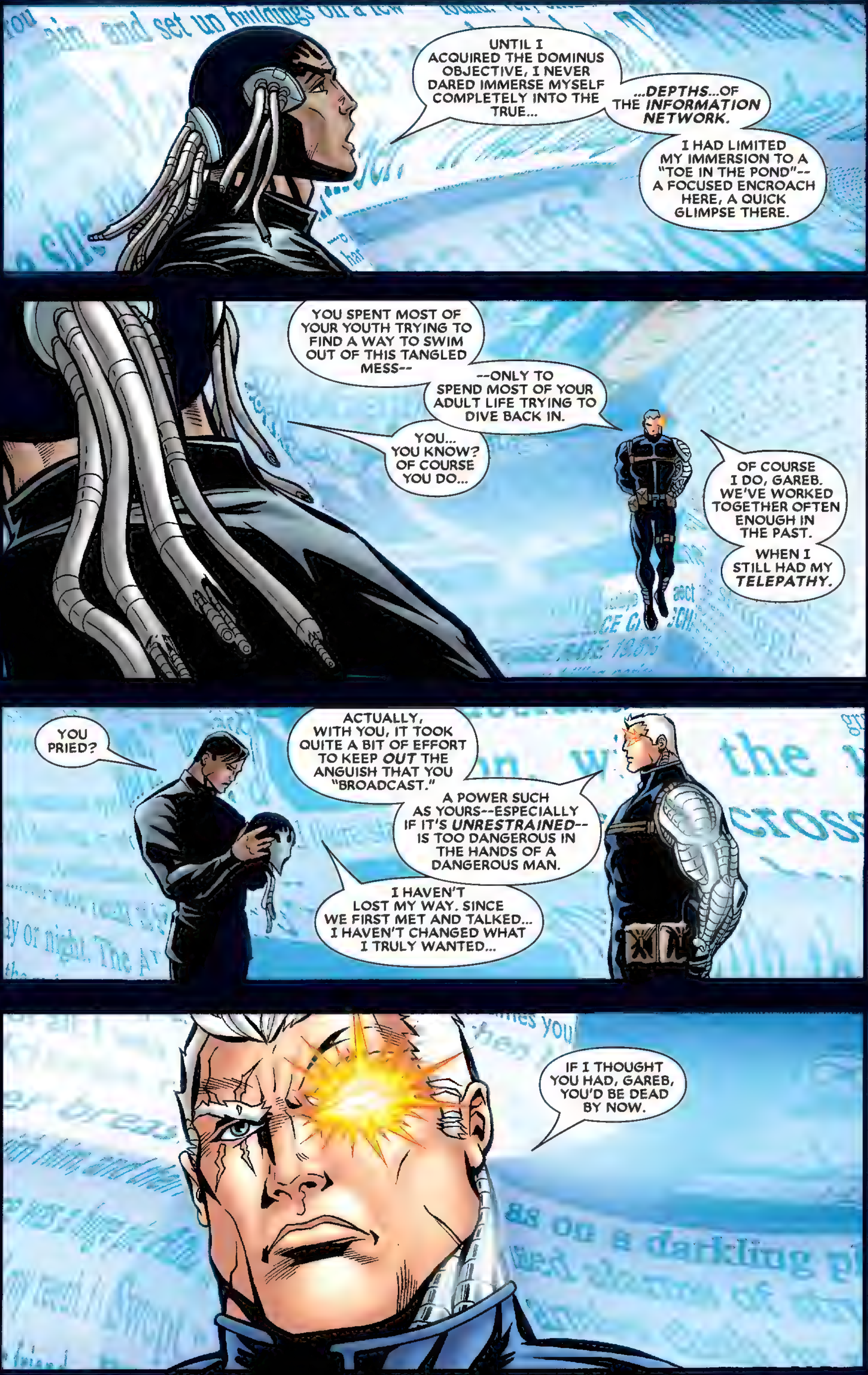

GARABED "GAREB" BASHUR. THE MUTANT WAVELENGTH SIGNAL FILTER ONCE KNOWN AS COMMCAST.
THE GUY WITH THE COLANDER ON HIS HEAD, RIGHT? I KILLED HIM ONCE BEFORE, TOO!
YOU KILLED A CLONED BODY, MR. WILSON. I WOULD NEVER HAVE RISKED MY REAL BODY IN SUCH LETHAL ESCAPADES.
NOR WOULD I HAVE EVER WORN A COLANDER ON MY OWN HEAD.
MANY MONTHS AGO, YOU KILLED MY LAST ANCILLARY BODY. A PROBLEM WITH MY CLONE VATS PREVENTS ME FROM MAKING ANY MORE COPIES--
--THOUGH NOT COPIES OF MAKESHIFT AND RIVE, QUITE OBVIOUSLY.
THAT IS WHY I CREATED THE BLACK BOX ARMOR AND PERSONA.
AS PROTECTION FOR MY TRUE FORM WHEN NECESSARY AND TO OBFUSCATE MY MANY ENDEAVORS.
CAN WE PLEASE KILL HIM JUST SO HE'LL SHUT UP?

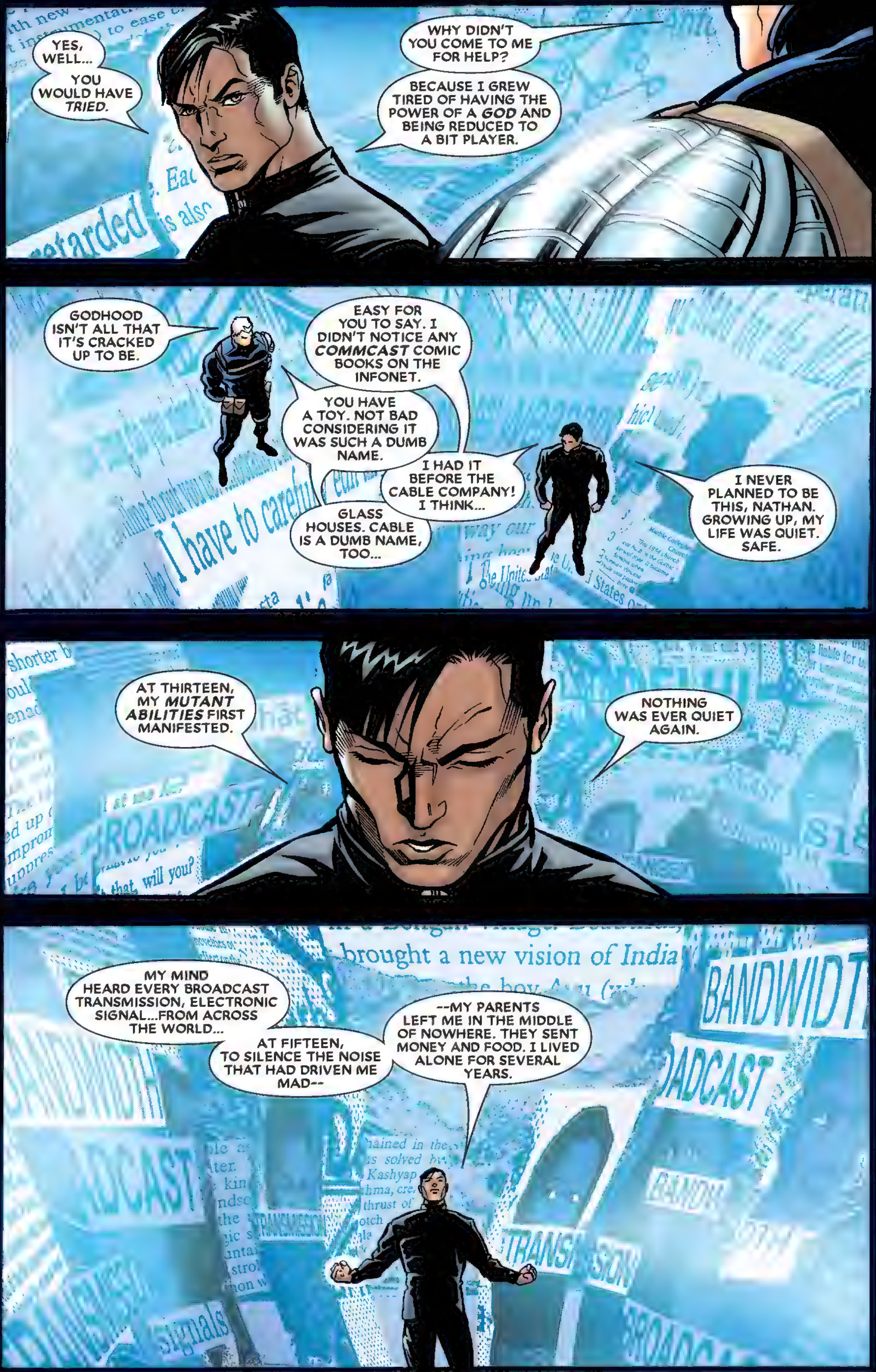

YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE WOMEN. LEAVE BASHUR TO ME...
I COULD HAVE ALL THE WOMEN EVEN *WITHOUT* YOUR PERMISSION ...
YOU NEED ME ALIVE, DON'T YOU, *NATHAN?*
THAT IS USEFUL INFORMATION...
THIS IS LIKE PLAYING A VIDEO GAME.
THOUGH YOU'D THINK I'D JUMP AT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RECKLESS, GUILT-FREE CARNAGE, I FIND IT ODDLY UNSETTLING.
WE'RE ALL ALIVE!
WE ALL BREATHE--THINK AND FEEL--
YEAH, YOU OPENED YOUR MOUTHS, SO I'M OKAY WITH IT NOW...

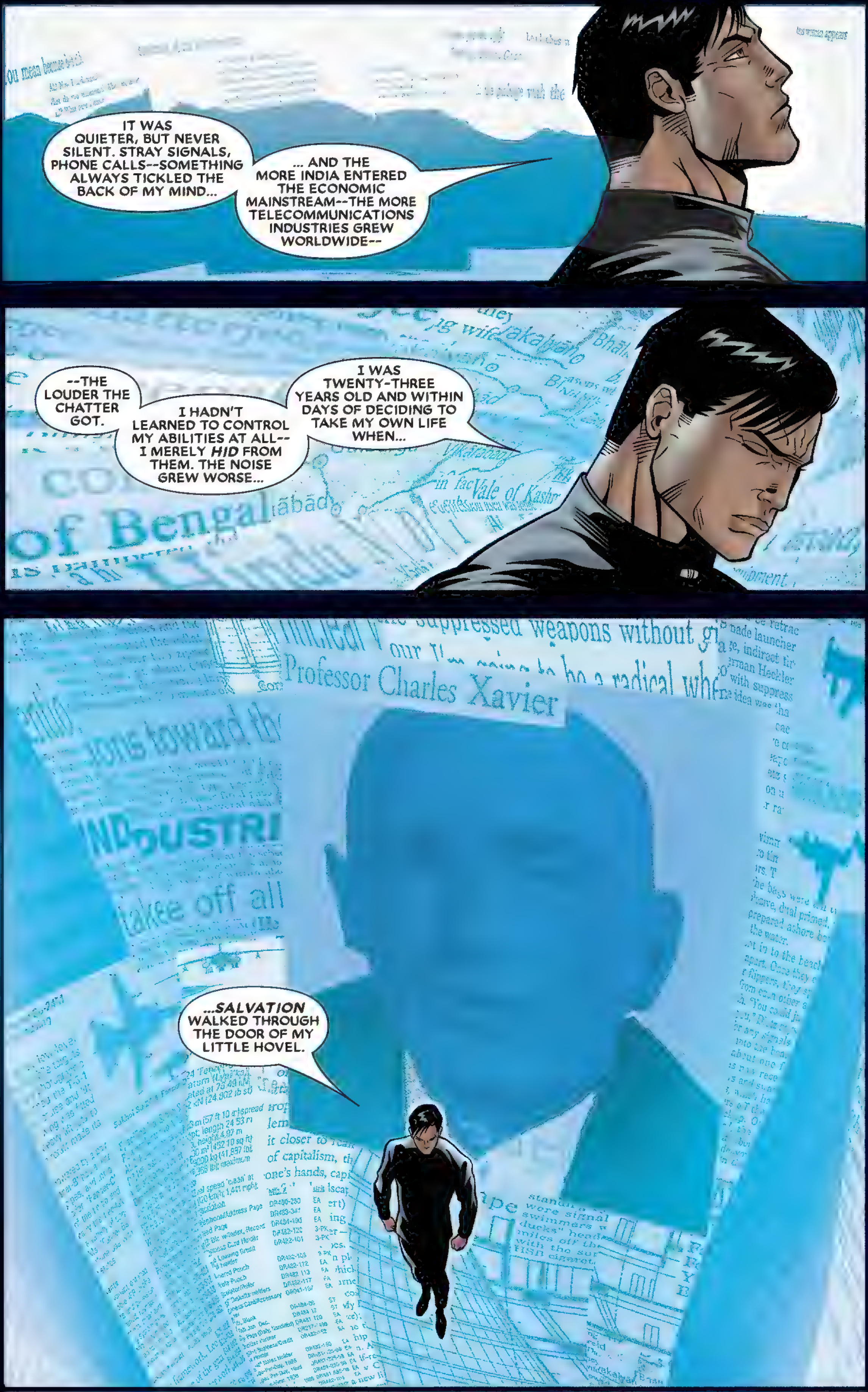

NATE, MAN--HOWZABOUT A CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY WOULD A *MUTANT* WHOSE POWER IS TO ABSORB ALL ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS AND WHAT-NOT BOTHER STEALING A *COMPUTER PROGRAM* THAT ABSORBS ALL ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS AND WHAT-NOT?
THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE IS A *PROCESSING* SYSTEM. BASHUR LIVES EACH AND EVERY DAY IN A *MINEFIELD* OF *CONSTANT INPUT*.
HE CAN ONLY SORT OUT WHAT HE SPECIFICALLY *FOCUSES* ON--AND IT IS INCREDIBLY EXHAUSTING. DOMINUS WOULD SORT ALL OF IT OUT FOR HIM--
THEREBY LETTING ME SEE ALL, KNOW ALL AND MOST IMPORTANTLY--*CONTROL ALL!*

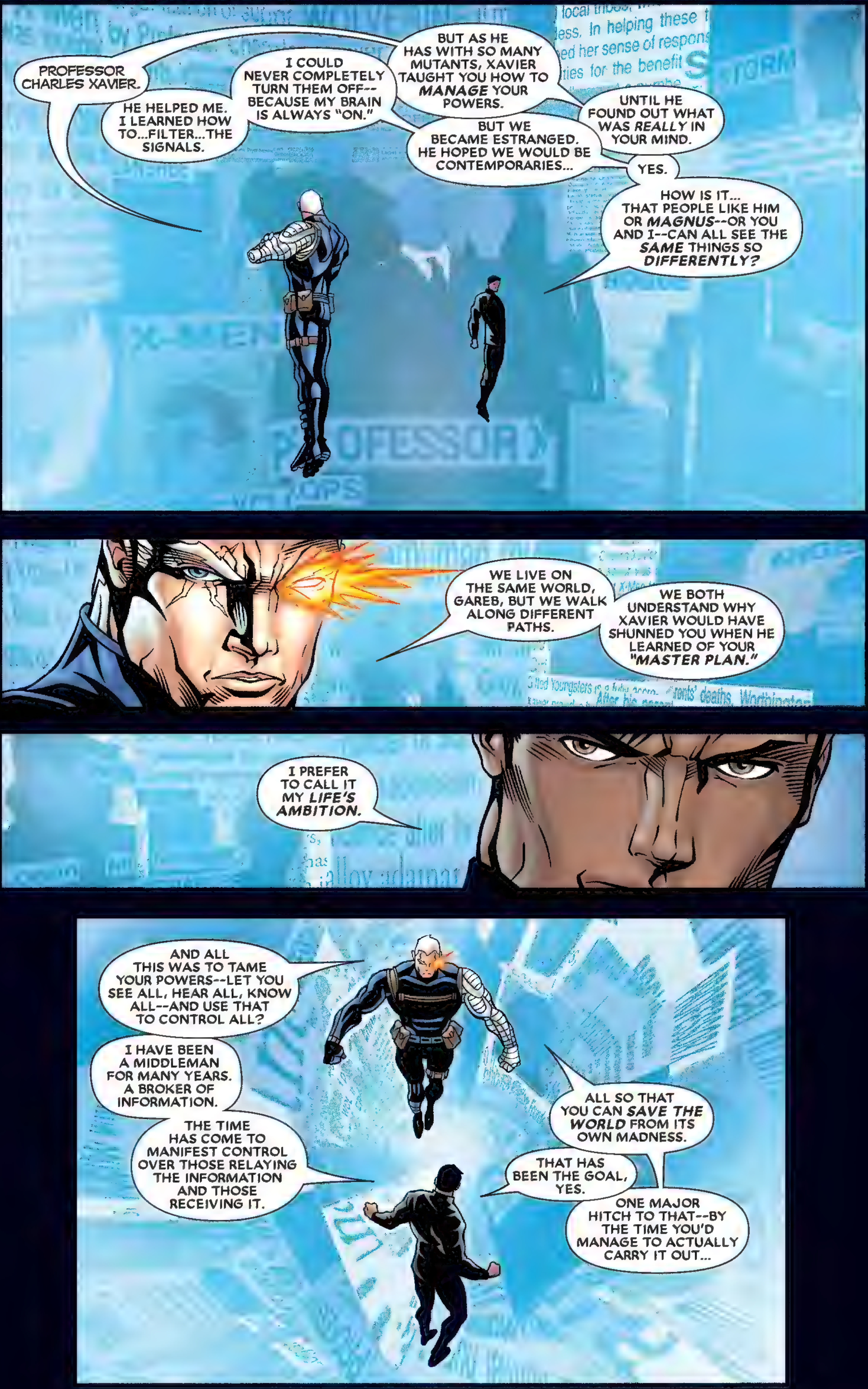

WHILE NAVIGATING THE INFONET--
--YOU FOUND MY ARMOR'S *DESIGN SCHEMATICS* AND ITS WEAKNESSES.
WELL, NATHAN, TIME TO RETURN THE FAVOR...
AAAH--
SCIENTISTS FROM *ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS* EXHAUSTIVELY STUDIED THE *ALIEN PHALANX EMBRYO* THAT YOU TRANSFORMED INTO *TECHNO-ORGANIC MESH.*
AND IN THEIR REPORTS ARE LISTED VARIOUS FREQUENCIES THEY FOUND TO... *DESTABILIZE* THE T-O.
NGGYNNRR!
IT APPEARS WE ARE AT A BIT OF AN IMPASSE.
CABLE--? OH, C'MON, I THOUGHT WE WERE PAST THAT WHOLE *"TURN CABLE'S BODY INTO WALKING SCRUBBING BUBBLES"* METHOD OF ATTACK!
WILL YOU EITHER SHUT UP OR SPEAK ENGLISH-- AND I MEAN REGULAR ENGLISH, NOT ORIGINAL ENGLISH!
SO DID I. EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN. GO FIGURE. GOOD FOR THE GANDER, THOUGH...
...WE ALL THOUGHT MY *TELEPATHY* WAS YESTERDAY'S NEWS, TOO...
...BUT I'M LINKED TO THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE NOW--

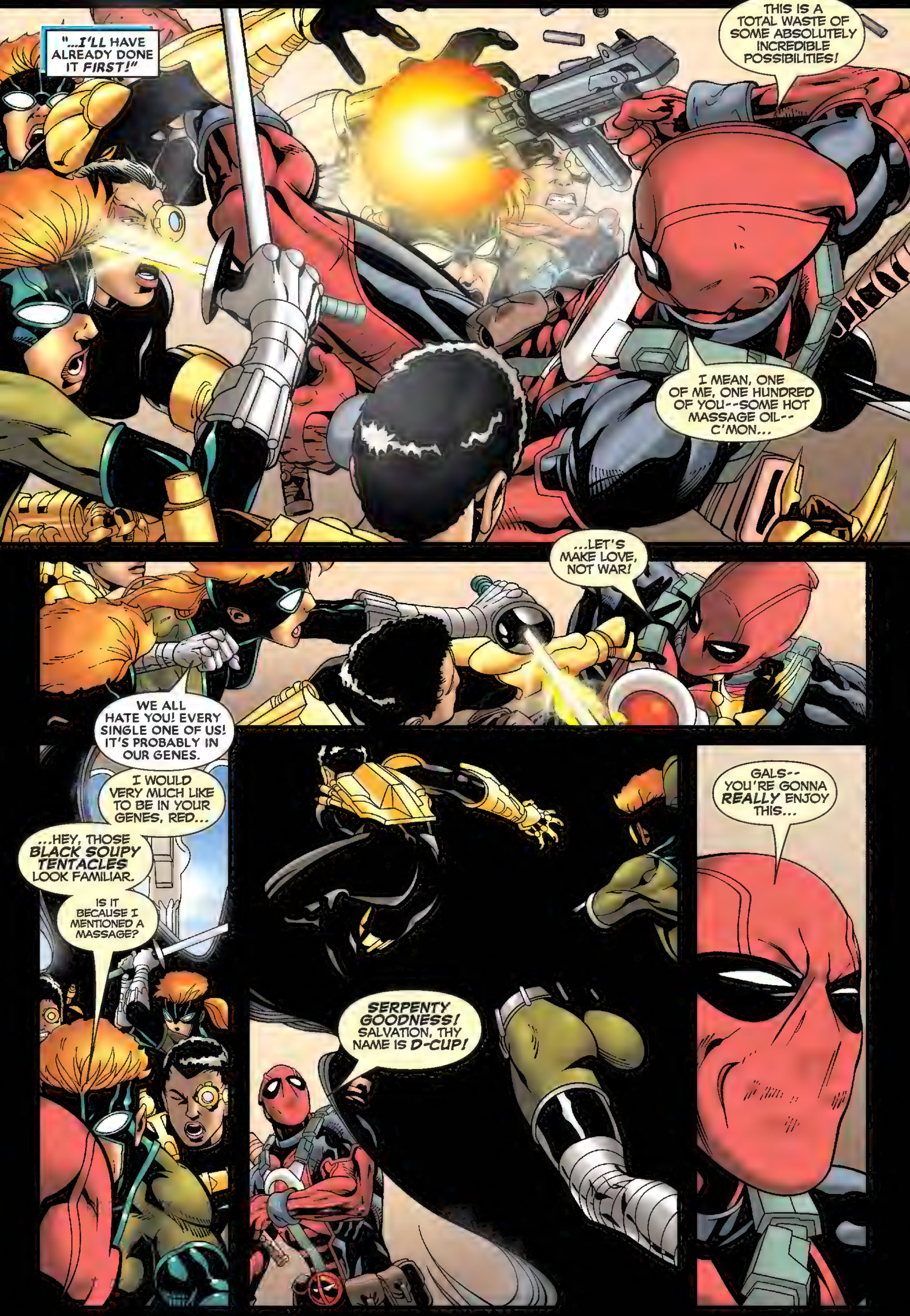

"--WHICH LETS ME TAP INTO BASHUR'S POWERS!"
CRAP.

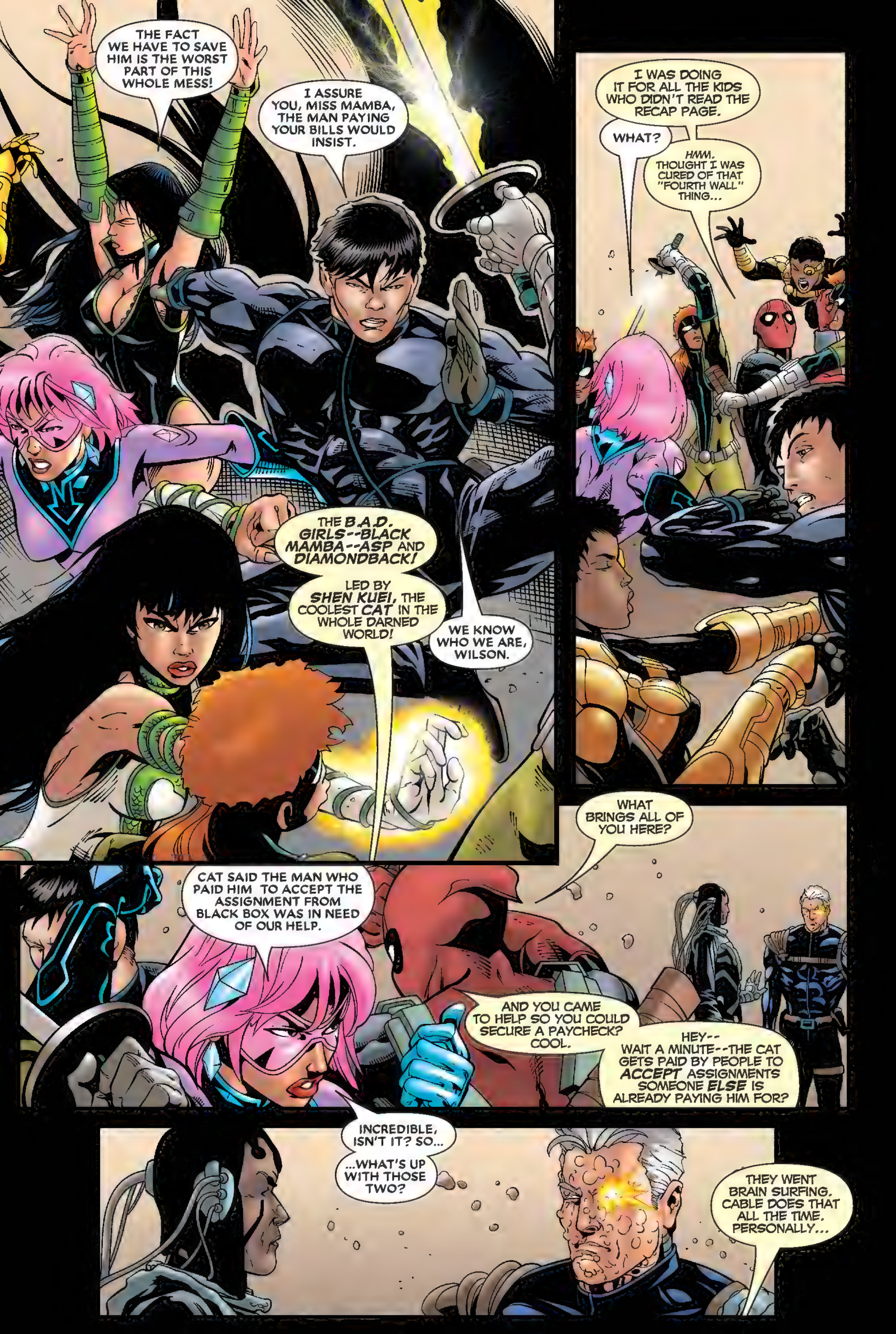

UNTIL I ACQUIRED THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE, I NEVER DARED IMMERSE MYSELF COMPLETELY INTO THE TRUE...
...*DEPTHS*...OF THE *INFORMATION NETWORK.*
I HAD LIMITED MY IMMERSION TO A "TOE IN THE POND"--A FOCUSED ENCROACH HERE, A QUICK GLIMPSE THERE.
YOU SPENT MOST OF YOUR YOUTH TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO SWIM OUT OF THIS TANGLED MESS--
--ONLY TO SPEND MOST OF YOUR ADULT LIFE TRYING TO DIVE BACK IN.
YOU... YOU KNOW? OF COURSE YOU DO...
OF COURSE I DO, GAREB. WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER OFTEN ENOUGH IN THE PAST.
WHEN I STILL HAD MY *TELEPATHY.*
YOU PRIED?
ACTUALLY, WITH YOU, IT TOOK QUITE A BIT OF EFFORT TO KEEP *OUT* THE ANGUISH THAT YOU "BROADCAST."
A POWER SUCH AS YOURS--ESPECIALLY IF IT'S *UNRESTRAINED*--IS TOO DANGEROUS IN THE HANDS OF A DANGEROUS MAN.
I HAVEN'T LOST MY WAY. SINCE WE FIRST MET AND TALKED... I HAVEN'T CHANGED WHAT I TRULY WANTED...
IF I THOUGHT YOU HAD, GAREB, YOU'D BE DEAD BY NOW.

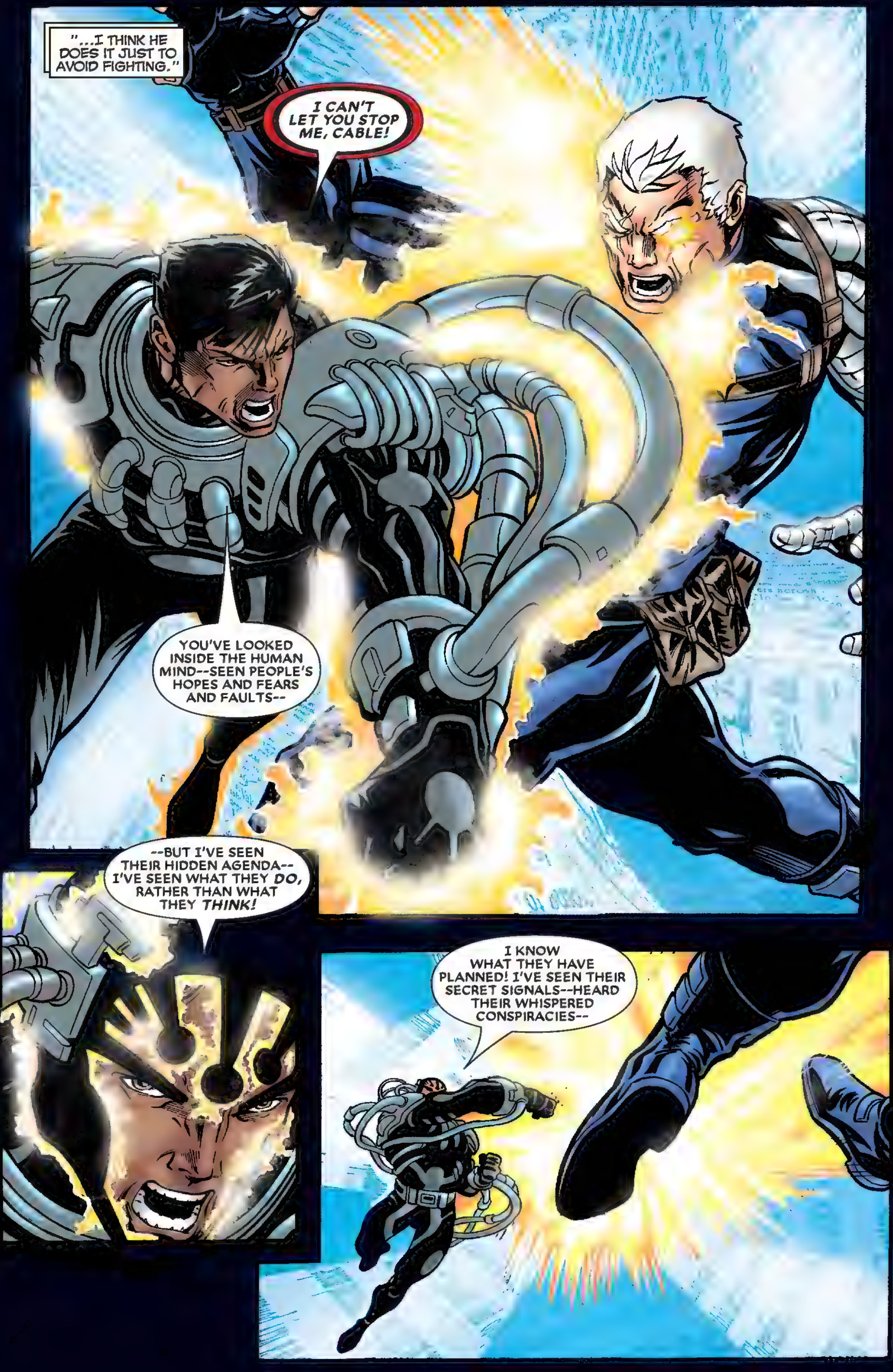

YES, WELL...
YOU WOULD HAVE *TRIED.*
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO ME FOR HELP?
BECAUSE I GREW TIRED OF HAVING THE POWER OF A *GOD* AND BEING REDUCED TO A BIT PLAYER.
GODHOOD ISN'T ALL THAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. I DIDN'T NOTICE ANY *COMMCAST* COMIC BOOKS ON THE INFONET.
YOU HAVE A TOY. NOT BAD CONSIDERING IT WAS SUCH A DUMB NAME.
I HAD IT BEFORE THE CABLE COMPANY! I THINK...
GLASS HOUSES. CABLE IS A DUMB NAME, TOO...
I NEVER PLANNED TO BE THIS, NATHAN. GROWING UP, MY LIFE WAS QUIET. SAFE.
AT THIRTEEN, MY *MUTANT ABILITIES* FIRST MANIFESTED.
NOTHING WAS EVER QUIET AGAIN.
MY MIND HEARD EVERY BROADCAST TRANSMISSION, ELECTRONIC SIGNAL...FROM ACROSS THE WORLD...
AT FIFTEEN, TO SILENCE THE NOISE THAT HAD DRIVEN ME MAD--
--MY PARENTS LEFT ME IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. THEY SENT MONEY AND FOOD. I LIVED ALONE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

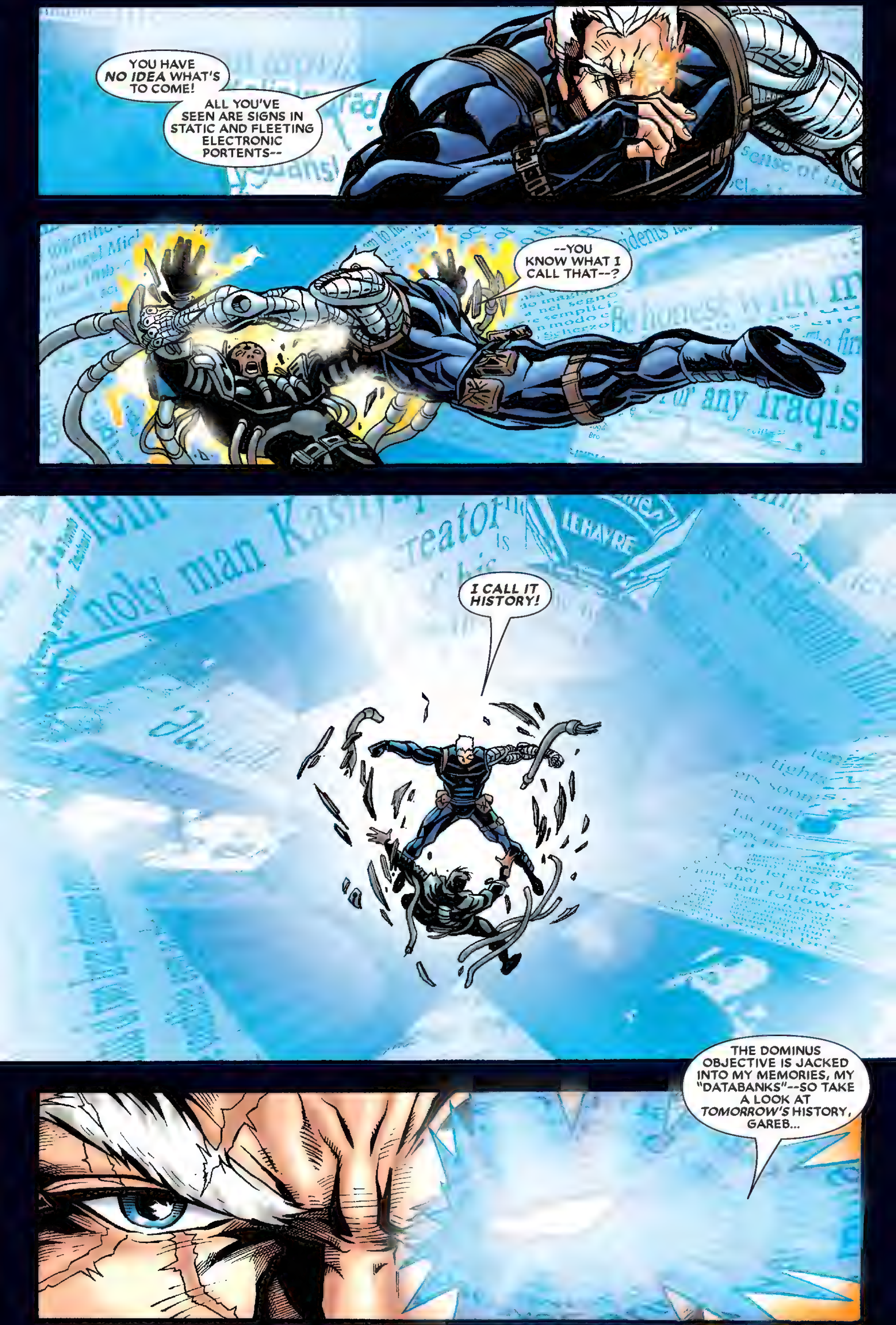

IT WAS QUIETER, BUT NEVER SILENT. STRAY SIGNALS, PHONE CALLS--SOMETHING ALWAYS TICKLED THE BACK OF MY MIND...
... AND THE MORE INDIA ENTERED THE ECONOMIC MAINSTREAM--THE MORE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRIES GREW WORLDWIDE--
--THE LOUDER THE CHATTER GOT.
I HADN'T LEARNED TO CONTROL MY ABILITIES AT ALL-- I MERELY *HID* FROM THEM. THE NOISE GREW WORSE...
I WAS TWENTY-THREE YEARS OLD AND WITHIN DAYS OF DECIDING TO TAKE MY OWN LIFE WHEN...
Professor Charles Xavier
...*SALVATION* WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR OF MY LITTLE HOVEL.

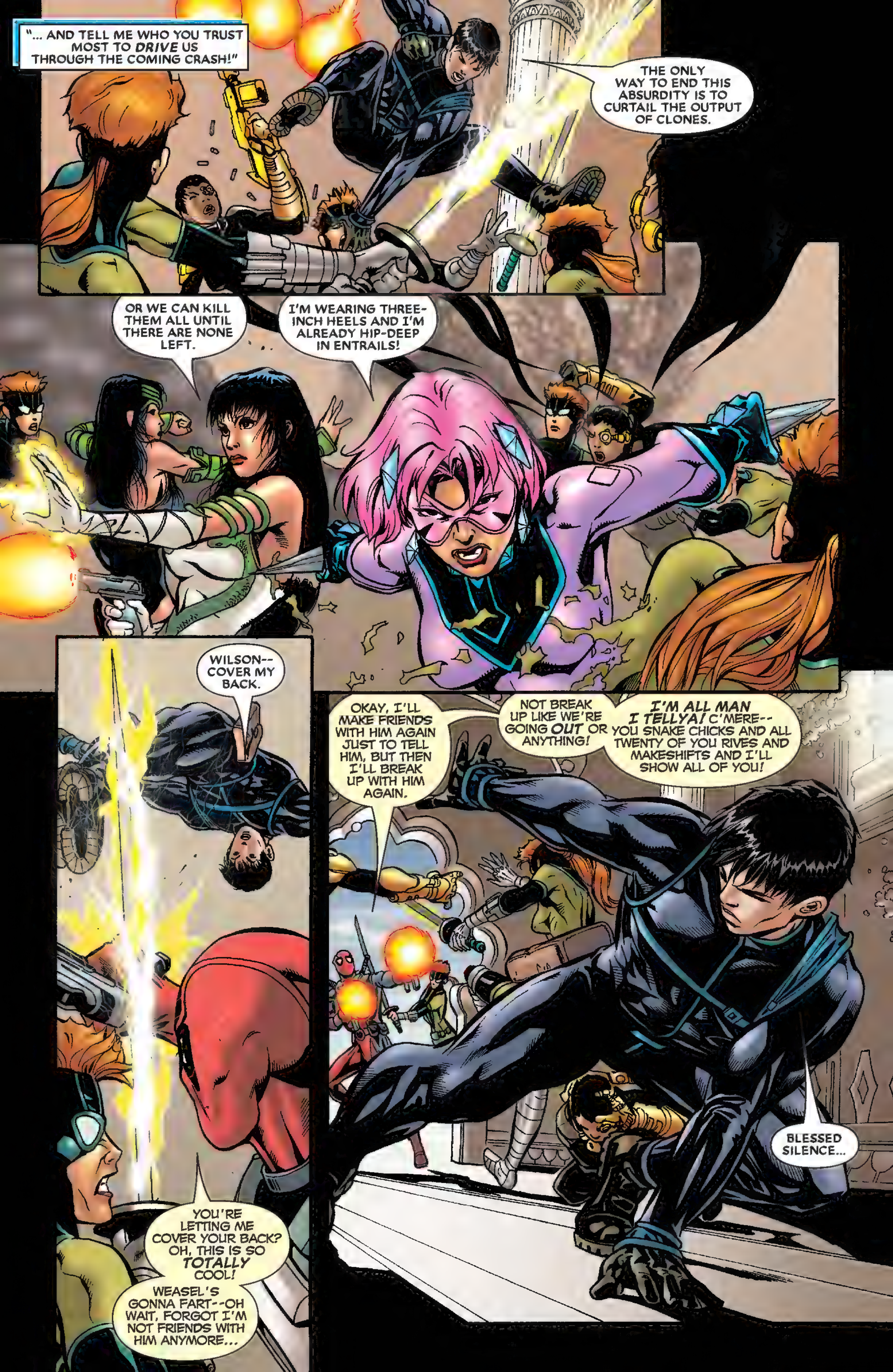

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER.
HE HELPED ME. I LEARNED HOW TO...FILTER...THE SIGNALS.
I COULD NEVER COMPLETELY TURN THEM OFF--BECAUSE MY BRAIN IS ALWAYS "ON."
BUT AS HE HAS WITH SO MANY MUTANTS, XAVIER TAUGHT YOU HOW TO *MANAGE* YOUR POWERS.
BUT WE BECAME ESTRANGED. HE HOPED WE WOULD BE CONTEMPORARIES...
UNTIL HE FOUND OUT WHAT WAS *REALLY* IN YOUR MIND.
YES.
HOW IS IT... THAT PEOPLE LIKE HIM OR *MAGNUS*--OR YOU AND I--CAN ALL SEE THE *SAME* THINGS SO *DIFFERENTLY?*
WE LIVE ON THE SAME WORLD, GAREB, BUT WE WALK ALONG DIFFERENT PATHS.
WE BOTH UNDERSTAND WHY XAVIER WOULD HAVE SHUNNED YOU WHEN HE LEARNED OF YOUR *"MASTER PLAN."*
I PREFER TO CALL IT MY *LIFE'S AMBITION.*
AND ALL THIS WAS TO TAME YOUR POWERS--LET YOU SEE ALL, HEAR ALL, KNOW ALL--AND USE THAT TO CONTROL ALL?
I HAVE BEEN A MIDDLEMAN FOR MANY YEARS. A BROKER OF INFORMATION.
THE TIME HAS COME TO MANIFEST CONTROL OVER THOSE RELAYING THE INFORMATION AND THOSE RECEIVING IT.
ALL SO THAT YOU CAN *SAVE THE WORLD* FROM ITS OWN MADNESS.
THAT HAS BEEN THE GOAL, YES.
ONE MAJOR HITCH TO THAT--BY THE TIME YOU'D MANAGE TO ACTUALLY CARRY IT OUT...

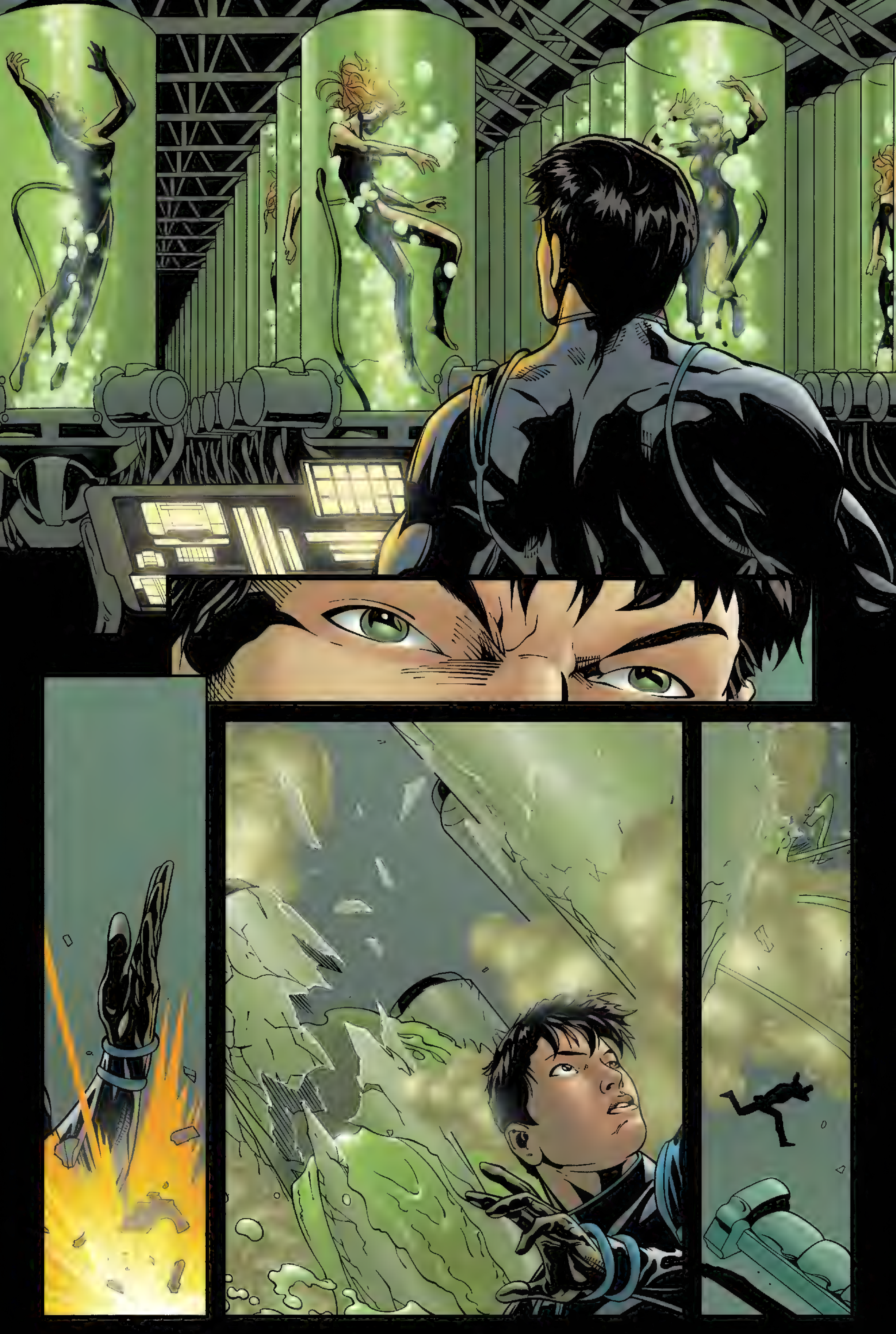

"...I'LL HAVE ALREADY DONE IT FIRST!"
THIS IS A TOTAL WASTE OF SOME ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE POSSIBILITIES!
I MEAN, ONE OF ME, ONE HUNDRED OF YOU--SOME HOT MASSAGE OIL--C'MON...
...LET'S MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR!
WE ALL HATE YOU! EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US! IT'S PROBABLY IN OUR GENES.
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO BE IN YOUR GENES, RED...
...HEY, THOSE BLACK SOUPY TENTACLES LOOK FAMILIAR.
IS IT BECAUSE I MENTIONED A MASSAGE?
SERPENTY GOODNESS! SALVATION, THY NAME IS D-CUP!
GALS--YOU'RE GONNA REALLY ENJOY THIS...

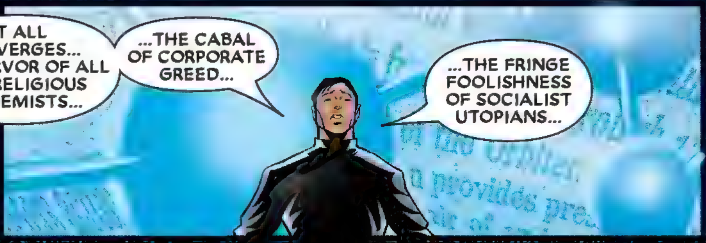

THE FACT WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM IS THE WORST PART OF THIS WHOLE MESS!
I ASSURE YOU, MISS MAMBA, THE MAN PAYING YOUR BILLS WOULD INSIST.
THE *B.A.D. GIRLS--BLACK MAMBA--ASP* AND *DIAMONDBACK!*
LED BY *SHEN KUEI,* THE COOLEST *CAT* IN THE WHOLE DARNED WORLD!
WE KNOW WHO WE ARE, WILSON.
WHAT?
I WAS DOING IT FOR ALL THE KIDS WHO DIDN'T READ THE RECAP PAGE.
HMM. THOUGHT I WAS CURED OF THAT "FOURTH WALL" THING...
WHAT BRINGS ALL OF YOU HERE?
CAT SAID THE MAN WHO PAID HIM TO ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT FROM BLACK BOX WAS IN NEED OF OUR HELP.
AND YOU CAME TO HELP SO YOU COULD SECURE A PAYCHECK? COOL.
HEY-- WAIT A MINUTE--THE CAT GETS PAID BY PEOPLE TO *ACCEPT* ASSIGNMENTS SOMEONE *ELSE* IS ALREADY PAYING HIM FOR?
INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT? SO...
...WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE TWO?
THEY WENT BRAIN SURFING. CABLE DOES THAT ALL THE TIME. PERSONALLY...

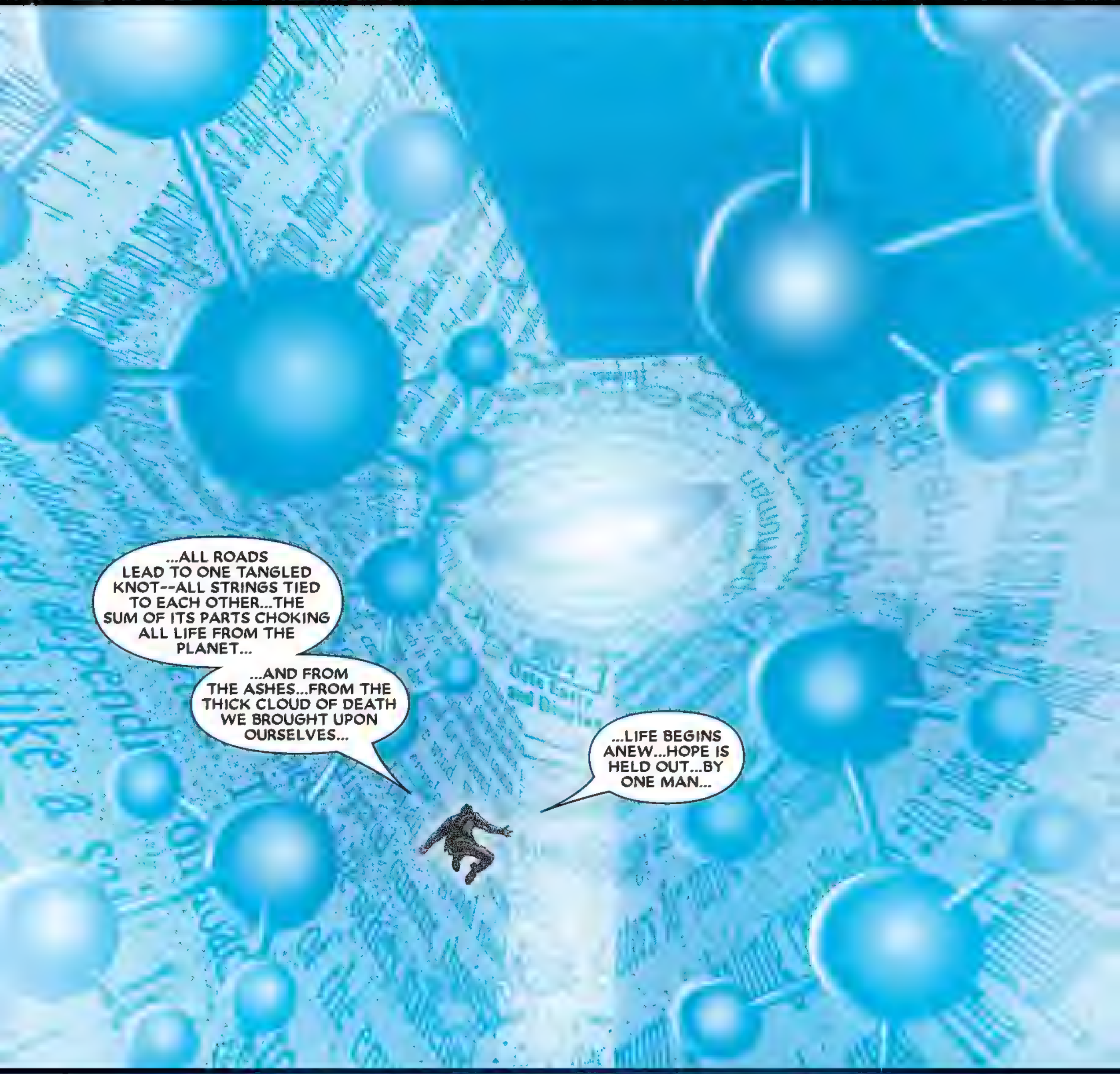

"...I THINK HE DOES IT JUST TO AVOID FIGHTING."
I CAN'T LET YOU STOP ME, CABLE!
YOU'VE LOOKED INSIDE THE HUMAN MIND--SEEN PEOPLE'S HOPES AND FEARS AND FAULTS--
--BUT I'VE SEEN THEIR HIDDEN AGENDA-- I'VE SEEN WHAT THEY *DO*, RATHER THAN WHAT THEY *THINK!*
I KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED! I'VE SEEN THEIR SECRET SIGNALS--HEARD THEIR WHISPERED CONSPIRACIES--

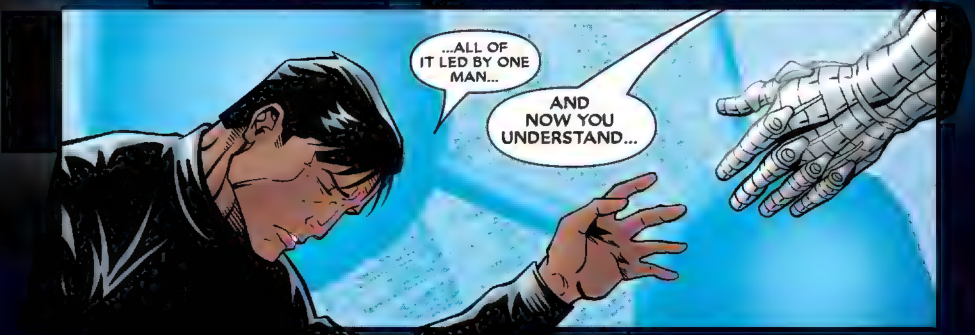

YOU HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT'S TO COME!
ALL YOU'VE SEEN ARE SIGNS IN STATIC AND FLEETING ELECTRONIC PORTENTS--
--YOU KNOW WHAT I CALL THAT--?
I CALL IT HISTORY!
THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE IS JACKED INTO MY MEMORIES, MY "DATABANKS"--SO TAKE A LOOK AT *TOMORROW'S* HISTORY, GAREB...

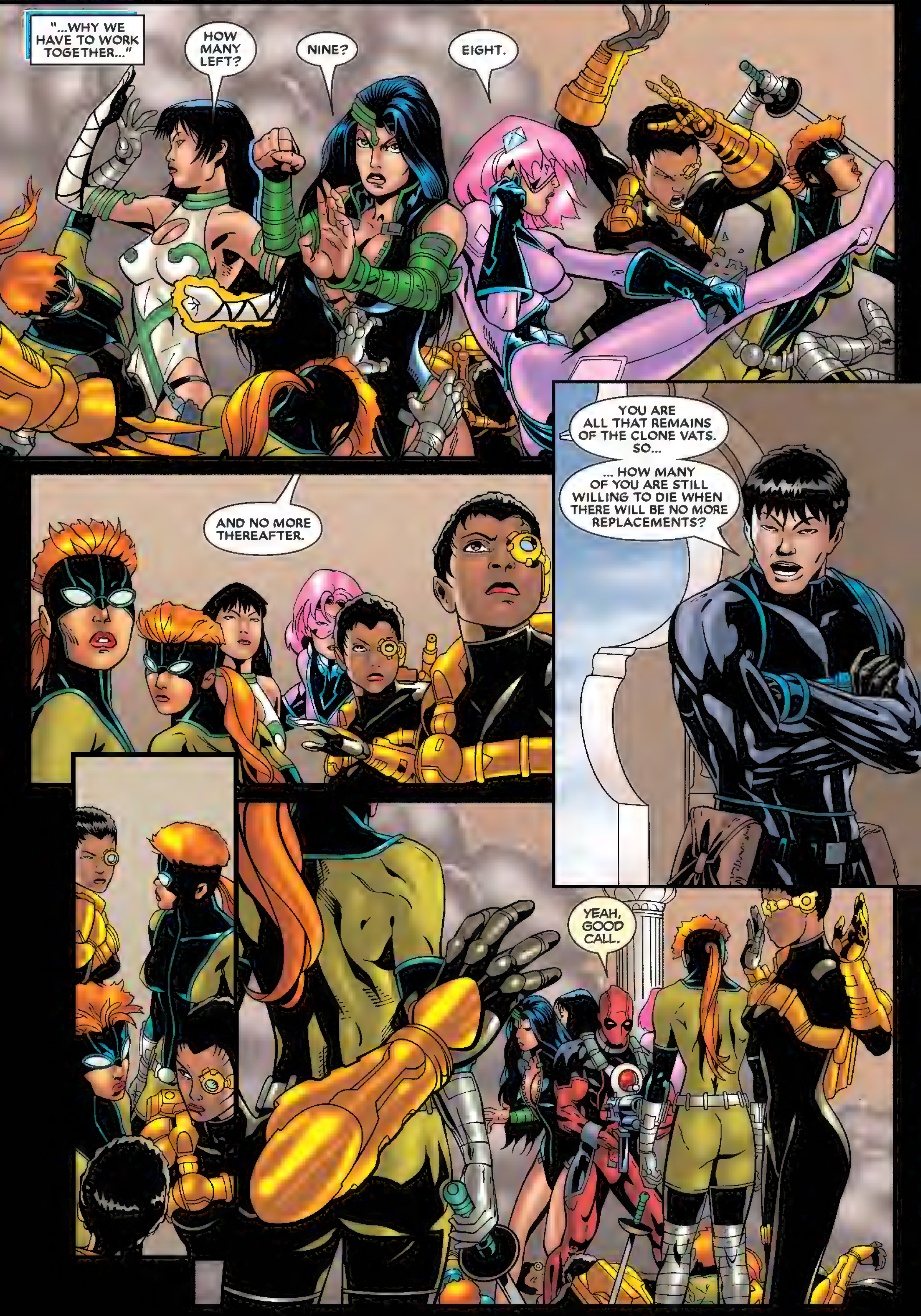

"... AND TELL ME WHO YOU TRUST MOST TO *DRIVE* US THROUGH THE COMING CRASH!"
THE ONLY WAY TO END THIS ABSURDITY IS TO CURTAIL THE OUTPUT OF CLONES.
OR WE CAN KILL THEM ALL UNTIL THERE ARE NONE LEFT.
I'M WEARING THREE-INCH HEELS AND I'M ALREADY HIP-DEEP IN ENTRAILS!
WILSON-- COVER MY BACK.
YOU'RE LETTING ME COVER YOUR BACK? OH, THIS IS SO *TOTALLY* COOL!
WEASEL'S GONNA FART--OH WAIT, FORGOT I'M NOT FRIENDS WITH HIM ANYMORE...
OKAY, I'LL MAKE FRIENDS WITH HIM AGAIN JUST TO TELL HIM, BUT THEN I'LL BREAK UP WITH HIM AGAIN.
NOT BREAK UP LIKE WE'RE GOING *OUT* OR ANYTHING!
I'M ALL MAN I TELLYA! C'MERE-- YOU SNAKE CHICKS AND ALL TWENTY OF YOU RIVES AND MAKESHIFTS AND I'LL SHOW ALL OF YOU!
BLESSED SILENCE...

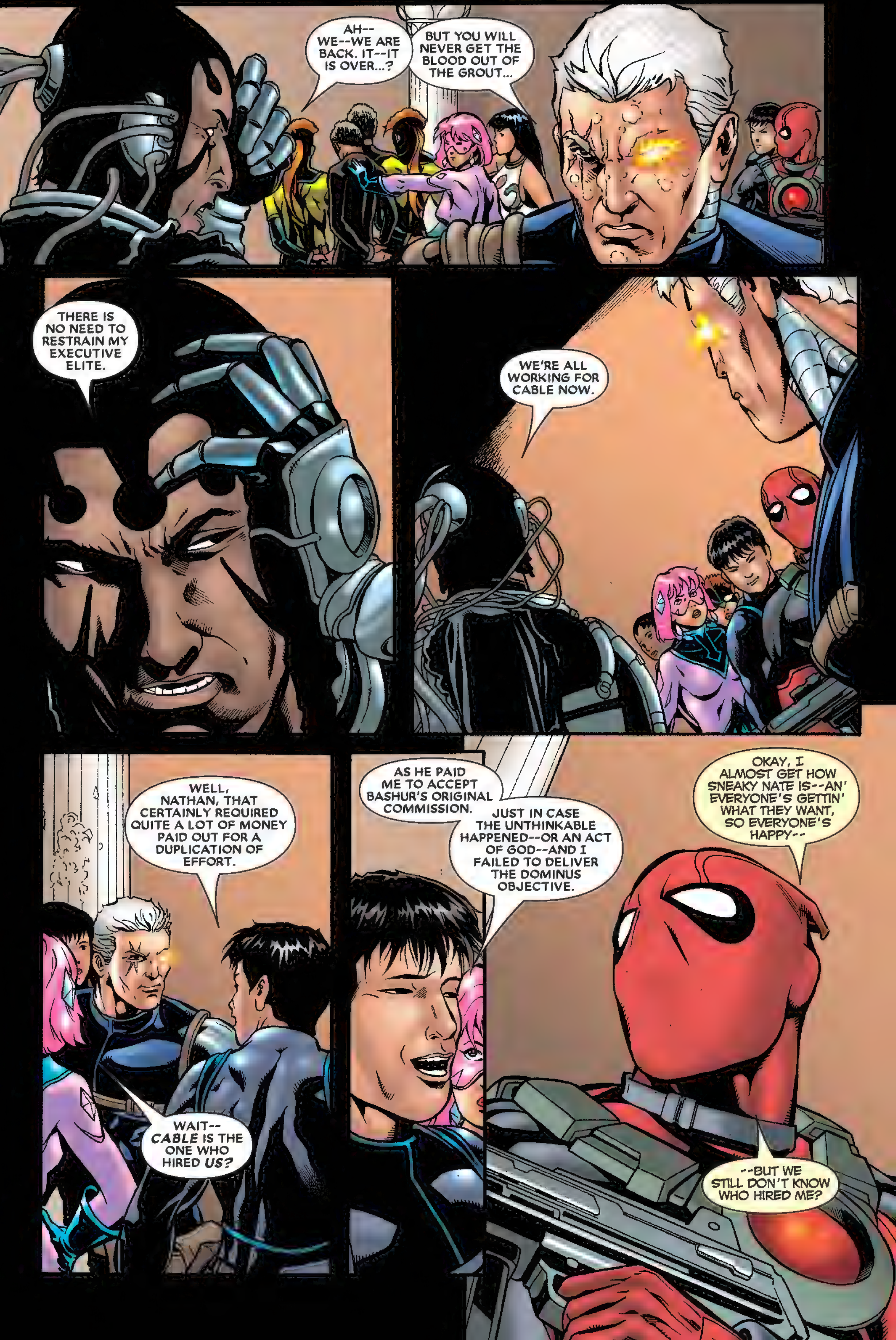


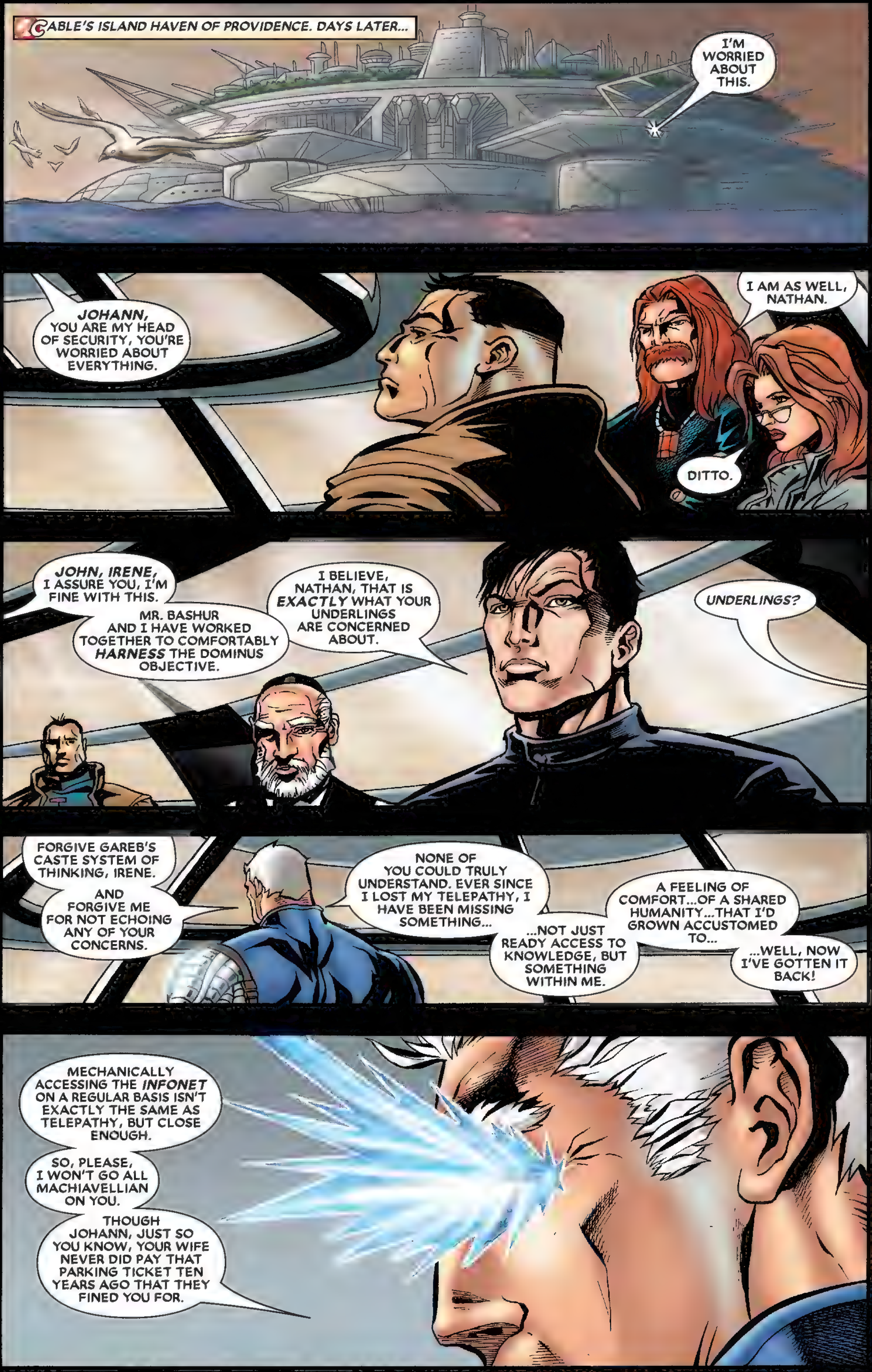

IT ALL CONVERGES... THE FERVOR OF ALL THE RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS...
...THE CABAL OF CORPORATE GREED...
...THE FRINGE FOOLISHNESS OF SOCIALIST UTOPIANS...

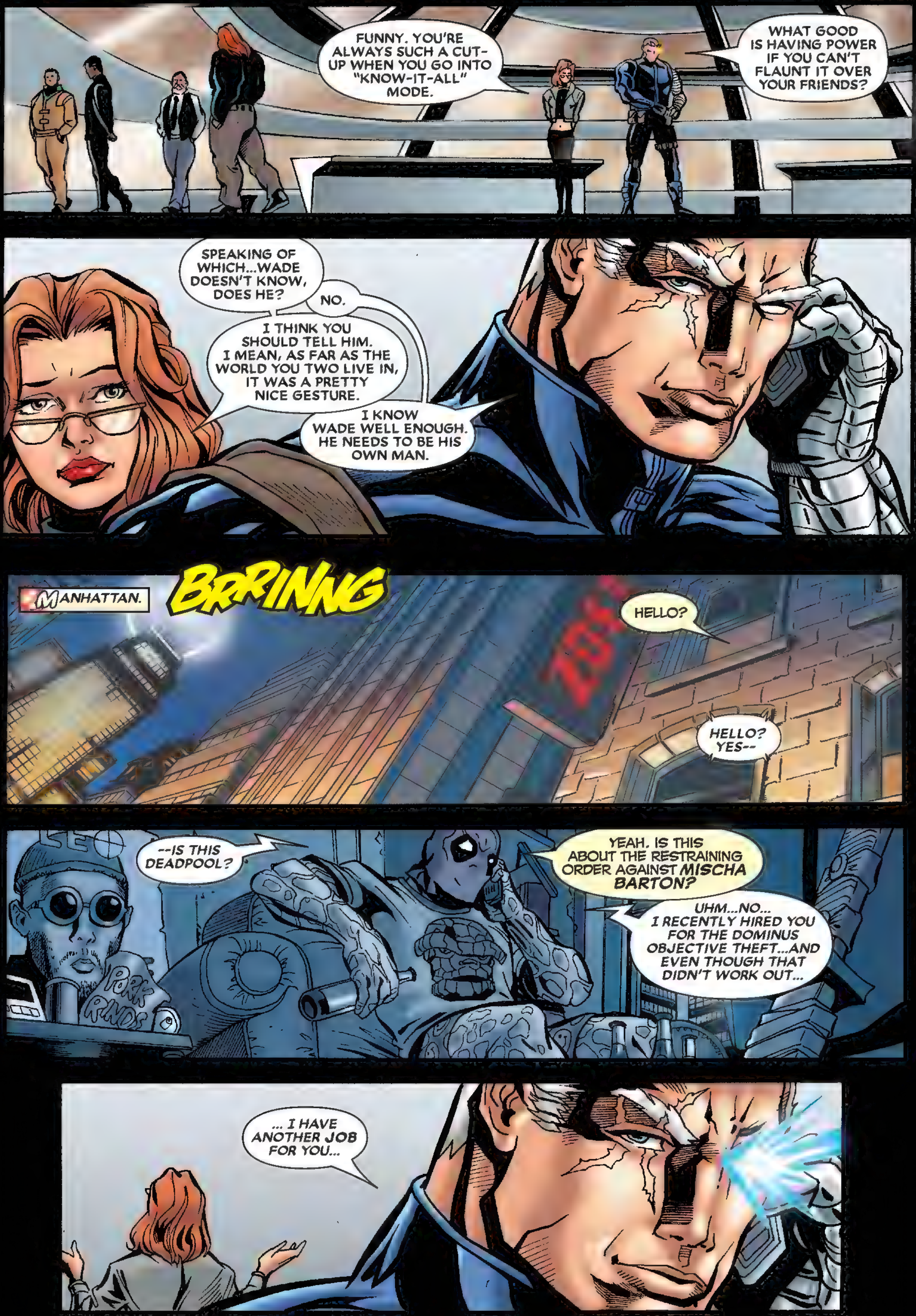

...ALL ROADS LEAD TO ONE TANGLED KNOT--ALL STRINGS TIED TO EACH OTHER...THE SUM OF ITS PARTS CHOKING ALL LIFE FROM THE PLANET...
...AND FROM THE ASHES...FROM THE THICK CLOUD OF DEATH WE BROUGHT UPON OURSELVES...
...LIFE BEGINS ANEW...HOPE IS HELD OUT...BY ONE MAN...


...ALL OF IT LED BY ONE MAN...
AND NOW YOU UNDERSTAND...


"...WHY WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER..."
HOW MANY LEFT?
NINE?
EIGHT.
AND NO MORE THEREAFTER.
YOU ARE ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE CLONE VATS. SO...
... HOW MANY OF YOU ARE STILL WILLING TO DIE WHEN THERE WILL BE NO MORE REPLACEMENTS?
YEAH, GOOD CALL.


AH-- WE--WE ARE BACK. IT--IT IS OVER...?
BUT YOU WILL NEVER GET THE BLOOD OUT OF THE GROUT...
THERE IS NO NEED TO RESTRAIN MY EXECUTIVE ELITE.
WE'RE ALL WORKING FOR CABLE NOW.
WELL, NATHAN, THAT CERTAINLY REQUIRED QUITE A LOT OF MONEY PAID OUT FOR A DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.
WAIT-- *CABLE* IS THE ONE WHO HIRED *US?*
AS HE PAID ME TO ACCEPT BASHUR'S ORIGINAL COMMISSION.
JUST IN CASE THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENED--OR AN ACT OF GOD--AND I FAILED TO DELIVER THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE.
OKAY, I ALMOST GET HOW SNEAKY NATE IS--AN' EVERYONE'S GETTIN' WHAT THEY WANT, SO EVERYONE'S HAPPY--
--BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO HIRED ME?


CABLE'S ISLAND HAVEN OF PROVIDENCE. DAYS LATER...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THIS.
JOHANN, YOU ARE MY HEAD OF SECURITY, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT EVERYTHING.
I AM AS WELL, NATHAN.
DITTO.
JOHN, IRENE, I ASSURE YOU, I'M FINE WITH THIS.
MR. BASHUR AND I HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO COMFORTABLY *HARNESS* THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE.
I BELIEVE, NATHAN, THAT IS *EXACTLY* WHAT YOUR UNDERLINGS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT.
UNDERLINGS?
FORGIVE GAREB'S CASTE SYSTEM OF THINKING, IRENE.
AND FORGIVE ME FOR NOT ECHOING ANY OF YOUR CONCERNS.
NONE OF YOU COULD TRULY UNDERSTAND. EVER SINCE I LOST MY TELEPATHY, I HAVE BEEN MISSING SOMETHING...
...NOT JUST READY ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE, BUT SOMETHING WITHIN ME.
A FEELING OF COMFORT...OF A SHARED HUMANITY...THAT I'D GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO...
...WELL, NOW I'VE GOTTEN IT BACK!
MECHANICALLY ACCESSING THE *INFONET* ON A REGULAR BASIS ISN'T EXACTLY THE SAME AS TELEPATHY, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH.
SO, PLEASE, I WON'T GO ALL MACHIAVELLIAN ON YOU.
THOUGH JOHANN, JUST SO YOU KNOW, YOUR WIFE NEVER DID PAY THAT PARKING TICKET TEN YEARS AGO THAT THEY FINED YOU FOR.]


FUNNY. YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A CUT-UP WHEN YOU GO INTO "KNOW-IT-ALL" MODE.
WHAT GOOD IS HAVING POWER IF YOU CAN'T FLAUNT IT OVER YOUR FRIENDS?
SPEAKING OF WHICH...WADE DOESN'T KNOW, DOES HE?
NO.
I THINK YOU SHOULD TELL HIM. I MEAN, AS FAR AS THE WORLD YOU TWO LIVE IN, IT WAS A PRETTY NICE GESTURE.
I KNOW WADE WELL ENOUGH. HE NEEDS TO BE HIS OWN MAN.
MANHATTAN.
BRRINNG
HELLO?
HELLO? YES--
--IS THIS DEADPOOL?
YEAH. IS THIS ABOUT THE RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST *MISCHA BARTON?*
UHM...NO... I RECENTLY HIRED YOU FOR THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE THEFT...AND EVEN THOUGH THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT...
... I HAVE ANOTHER *JOB* FOR YOU...

DEAR DEADPOOL

As the editor of this rag, I hold the awesome power to restrain Deadpool's chatter once in a while. And in this month's intro, I wanted to restrain him just long enough to thank everyone who's written in since we started running DEAR DEADPOOL way back in issue 13. Even if you're crazy, we like to hear from you. If you're crazy and entertaining, well, chances are you've met our standard for publication.

We love hearing your thoughts on the comic, but all that shining praise gets repetitive after a while. Wouldn't it be great if DEAR DEADPOOL ran an advice column for one issue, just like reader Dieter suggested back in issue 15? Tell us your troubles and Deadpool will tell you how to handle 'em. Just don't expect us to be legally responsible for any arrests or injuries that result.

I'd also like to give a special shout-out to anyone thoughtful and generous enough to give the gift of *Cable & Deadpool* this holiday season. Not only will the increased sales help us keep the book going—but just think of how excited your loved ones will be when they unwrap our special brand of mayhem and merriment! Just don't expect us to be legally responsible for any… oh, wait, I said that already.

Back to letters and Deadpool.

Happy holidays,
Nicole

Hi,

It's funny how I keep hearing these big comics events will have everlasting repercussions, just as I keep hearing the next "Star Trek" movie will be better than "The Wrath of Khan." Then I remember the big Boy Scout in blue with the huge *S* who bit the dust and returned with a new 'do. And here I always thought in order to have long hair all you had to do was have it cut less often. So what will happen with Deadpool and Cable after the Haus of M? Will Deadpool delete "Over the Rainbow" from his iPod? Will Cable comb his hair à la Flock of Seagulls?

Ricardo Delfin, São Paulo, Brazil

Well, Ricky, as you can tell, *A Casa de M* has had fundamental ramifications on our book. We nearly doubled our *vendas* for that month, thereby making Marvel some *dinheiro* on this book! That's pretty earth-shaking, if you ask me.

And now that you mention it, Nate would look friggin' *engraçado* in the Flock of Seagulls 'do. Man, those guys knew hair like nobody's wigwam.

Personally, I thought "Undiscovered Country" was better than "Wrath of Khan," just `cause I measure my crunchy Star Trek goodness by the sheer quantity of Shatnerian close-ups.

Tchau,
DP

Ahh, good ol' Deadpool,

First of all, I need to drink to Fabian's creative genius (in a good way). Your whole team is so fantastic that I feel I must create a new religious ritual to honor such a proverbial symphony of comic brilliance. In this ritual, I will strip naked and rub peanut butter all over my body while I spin around in circles howling at the moon. In this way, I can bond to you, Deadpool.

By the way, my eternal praise is justified. I'm 22 now and I've been reading Deadpool since I was 13. I own every back issue and as many appearances as I could find, and to top it off, you've changed me so much that I have an image of you tattooed on my left arm. This Deadpool worshipping hobby is the only thing that's kept me from my annoying habit of drinking hot sauce and sniffing my fiancée's array of shoes (I'm kidding... or... am I...). By the way, you should try to find a girlfriend whose last name isn't .jpg.

Just kidding. Please don't kill me. I love you all, keep up the great work (Fabian Nicieza owns you all).

Oh, and by the way, I use parentheses so much because they're very fun in my pants. I've enclosed a picture of my Deadpool tattoo in a following email.

Raph latetoomanypaintchipsasakid,
South Windsor, CT

Considering you actually managed to scare the bejeezus out of me, Ralph, all I'll say is, "Great letter and great to have you aboard!"

Why can't we have nice normal readers like the ones who read Harvey Pekar…

Greetings Scribes,

Deadpool, if you're still not letting Nate answer any letters, give him my best and tell him G'Journey for me. He's been my number one hero since the beginning. I even got a couple of letters printed in his first series and one in *X-Force*. I should get an "I told you so" on that one, as I told them what would happen if Cable left X-Force and time has proven me right.

Fabian is doing a fantastic job of chronicling your and Nathan's adventures. Which brings me to my point. You need to go down to the Marvel office and put some of your unique kind of pressure on them to put *C&DP* on their subscription list on their website. How do you expect to increase sales when you don't even offer a subscription on Marvel's website?

I'm handicapped, not as bad as you are, Wade, but it is still hard for me to get out and about. So I can't get to a comic shop as often as I'd like. I've been having to buy your issues off of the net after they come out. I know that I'm not alone in this, so some info on how to subscribe would be really great.

Take Care Guys and Keep Up the Great Work,
Joe Vaughn, Summerville, GA

Yeah, Joe, a few people have mentioned that whole subscription thing. Gotta tell you, we're pretty lucky to have gotten as far as we have, so putting any pressure on Marvel of a Deadpoolian nature, might be counter-productive to our survival. As it is, Nicole won't let Fabian come to the offices more than once a year for fear he'll say something typically stupid and peeve someone off…

Getting the book through the Marvel sub-plan probably wouldn't get them to you any faster than the mail order subscription houses you use. I'm just thankful you make the extra effort to get the book. Really. No sarcasm intended. I mean it. I can't be sincere once in a while…?

Hey Deadpool,

Love the book. I think it touches the hearts of those who read it... and warps their minds. Speaking of books, why hasn't Marvel reprinted some of the trades from your older series?

Also, what do you think of John Cusack playing you in the movie? He has the height, could get the build and is pretty damn good when it comes to humor. If Avi Arad casts Ryan Reynolds in the movie, I will hunt him down and tickle his feet for hours as a form of punishment.

By the way, I ran into Siryn in Dublin last week. She was coming out of a clothing store with a couple of bags full of lingerie. She mentioned something about a get-together with the Lombardi twins. Any idea what she could have meant by that?

Kevin Walsh, Ireland

GAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH! Ahem. No, no idea what she could have meant.

As for trades of my older stories, I'm still sayin' *Essential Deadpool*, baby – economical and black and white! *Essential Killraven* for cryin' out loud! *Essential Ant-Man*? What next, *Essential Rawhide Kid* (back when he was straight, I mean)?

Yo Deadpool,

I wasn't going to write to you, even though you did that shout-out for female readers, but then you mentioned Gordie Howe and I knew we had a connection going on.

I don't have any questions, but I figured as an Irish, hockey-playing, Deadpool-loving, female comic book fan I'd be cool enough to get printed anyway.

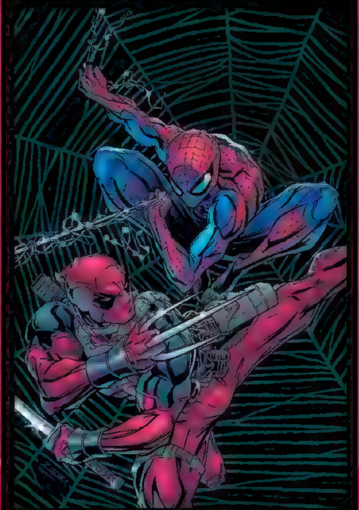
Lots of kisses to you, and one for Nate if he's good

Sarah McFarland, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Sarah, baby, you guys got ice in Ireland? I thought you drank your beer all warm? That Gordie Howe had a face like a truck that had just rolled through forty miles of hard track and slammed into a brick wall, huh? Check out Chris Chelios. He retired, but we're talking several miles of nasty road there, too.

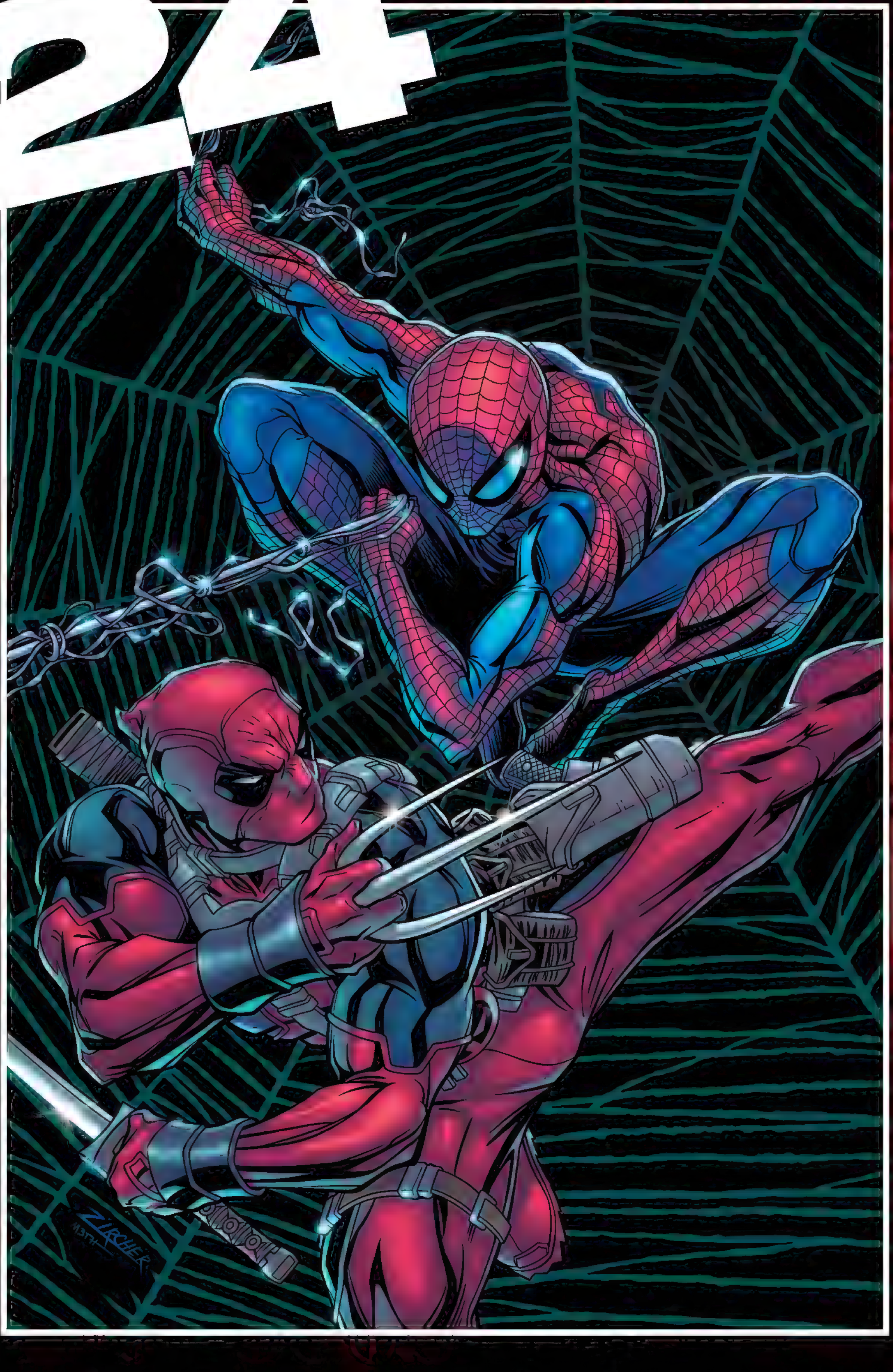
I like hockey players. They're the only people I know who look worse than I do.

NEXT ISSUE:

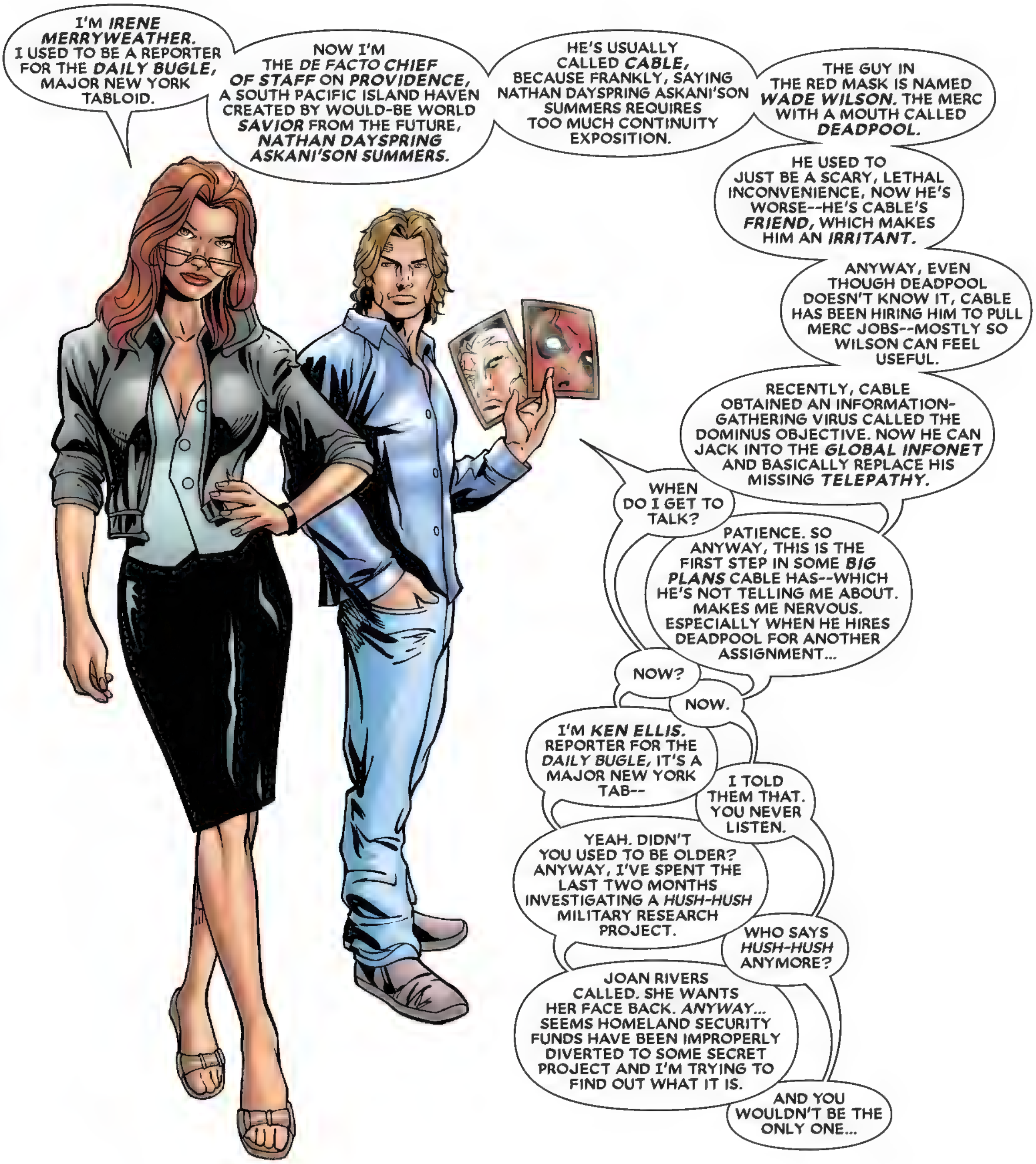


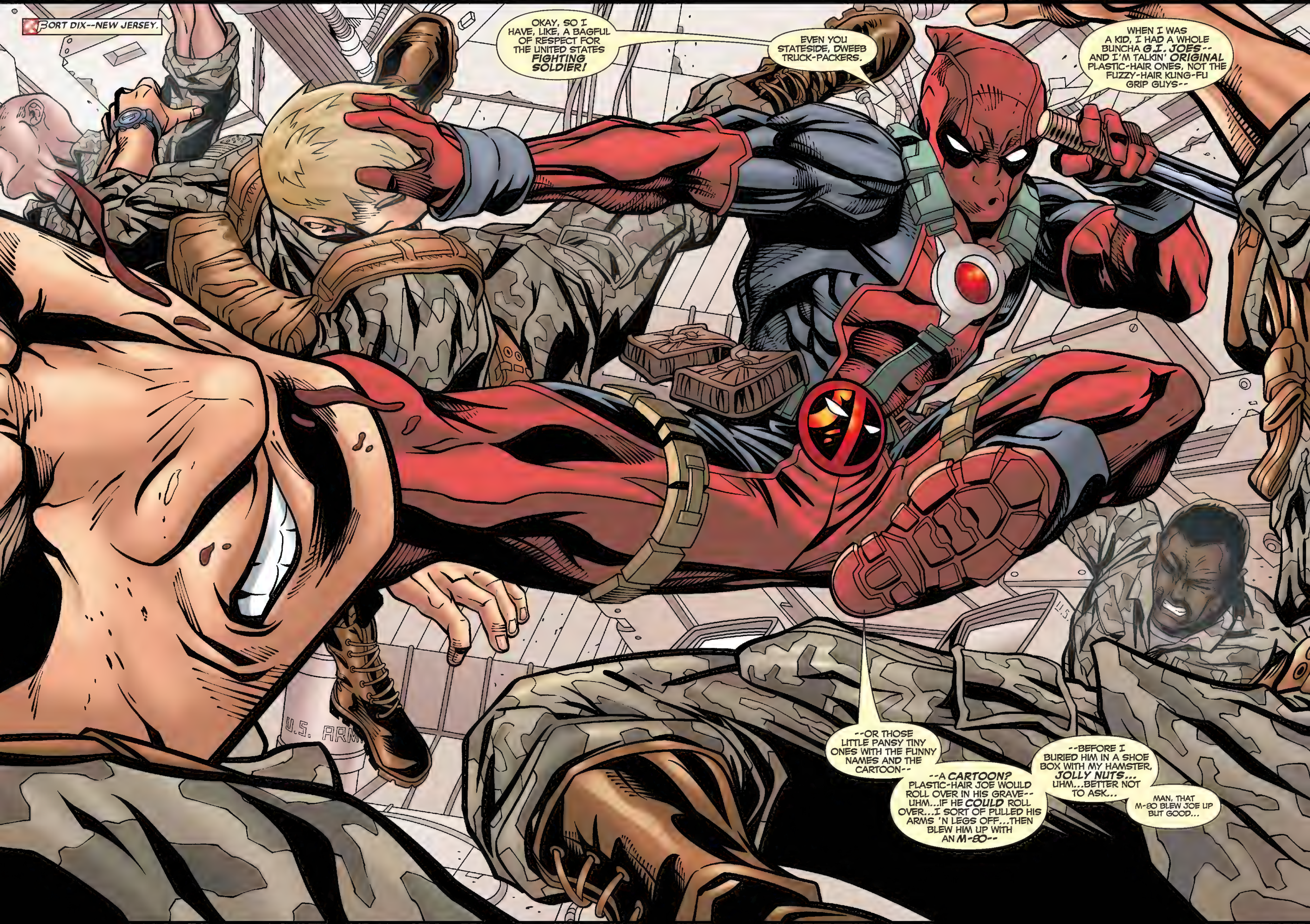
WHO NEEDS A CAPTION? IT'S DEADPOOL vs. SPIDER-MAN!!!

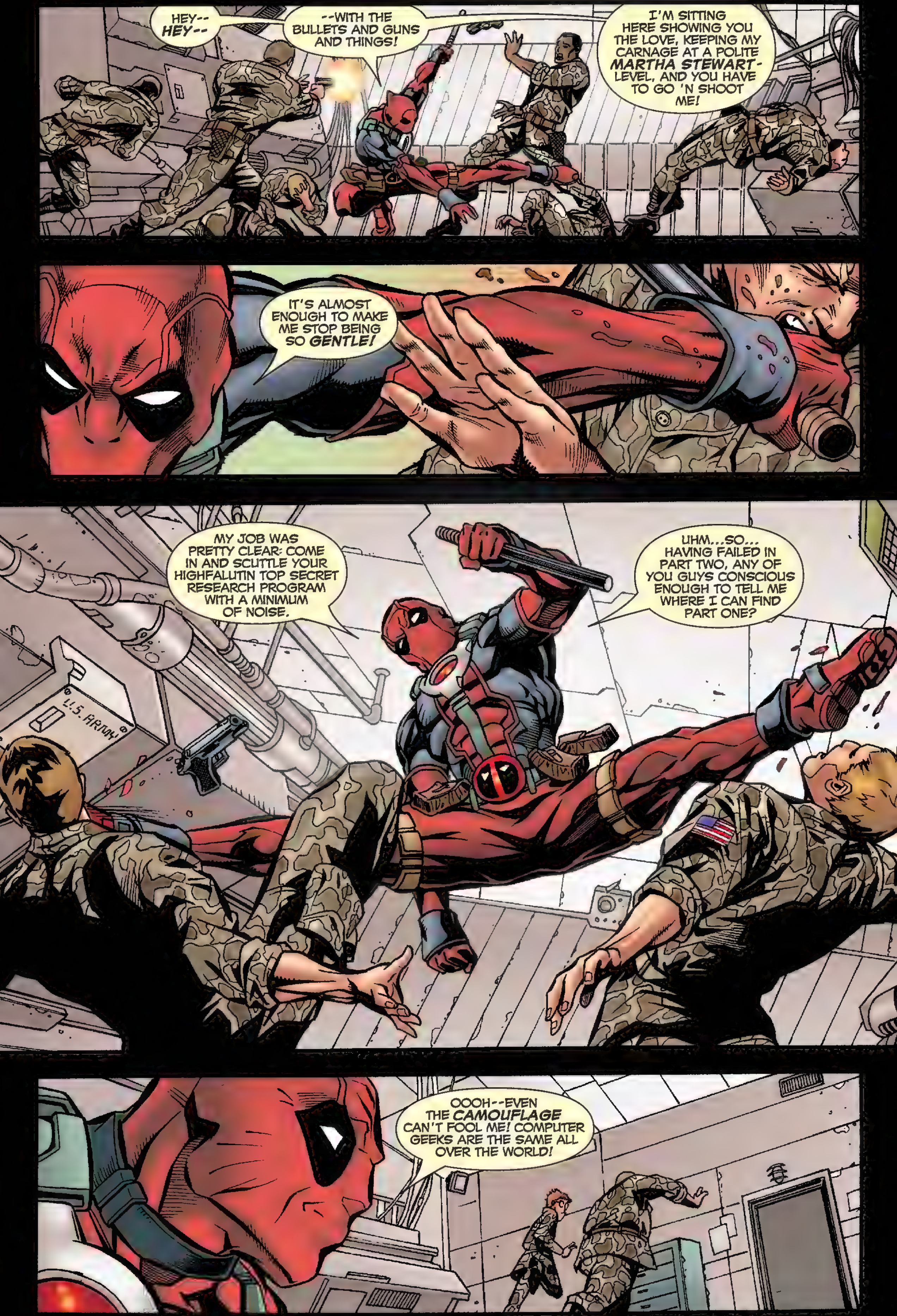
24

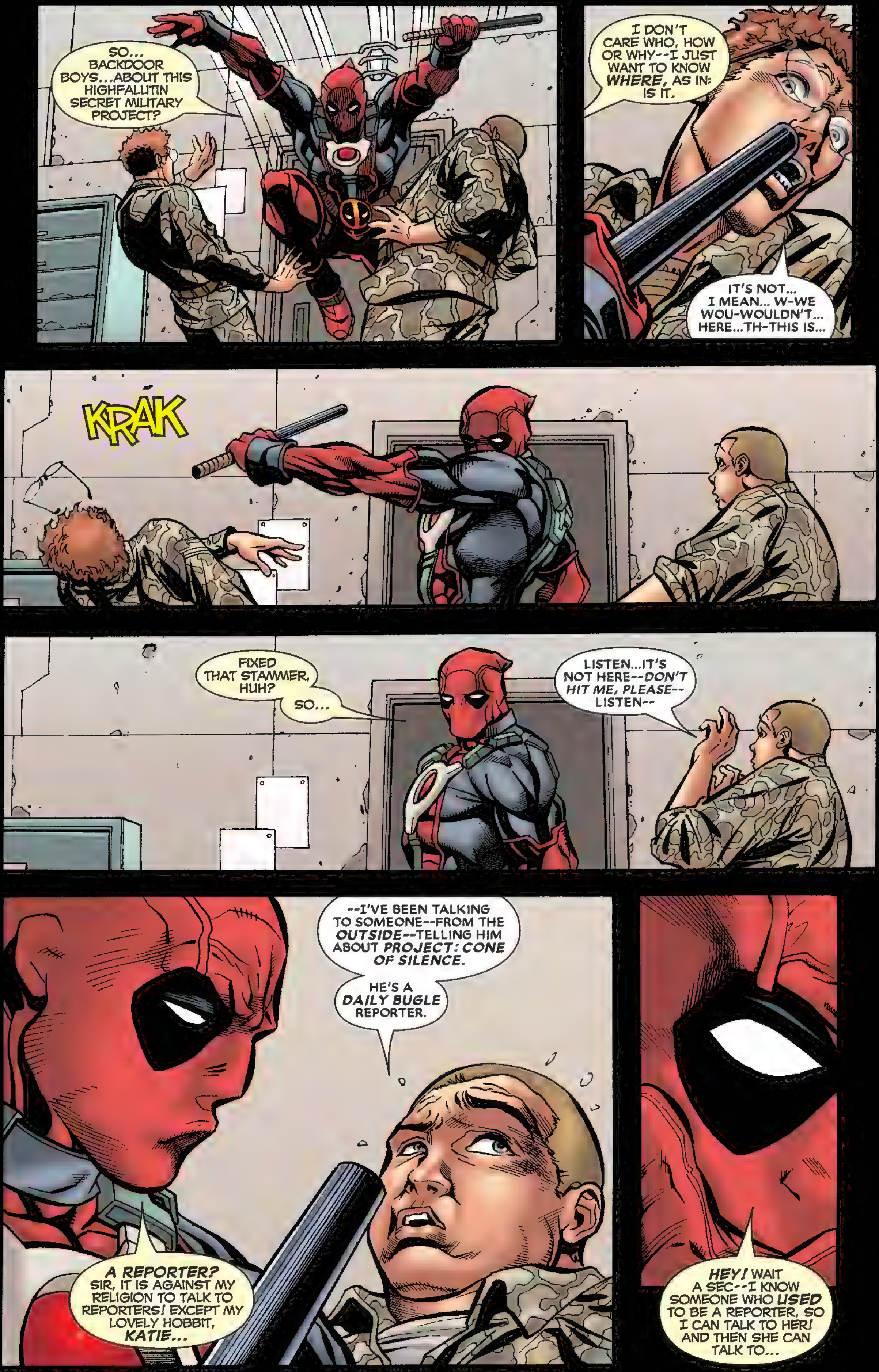


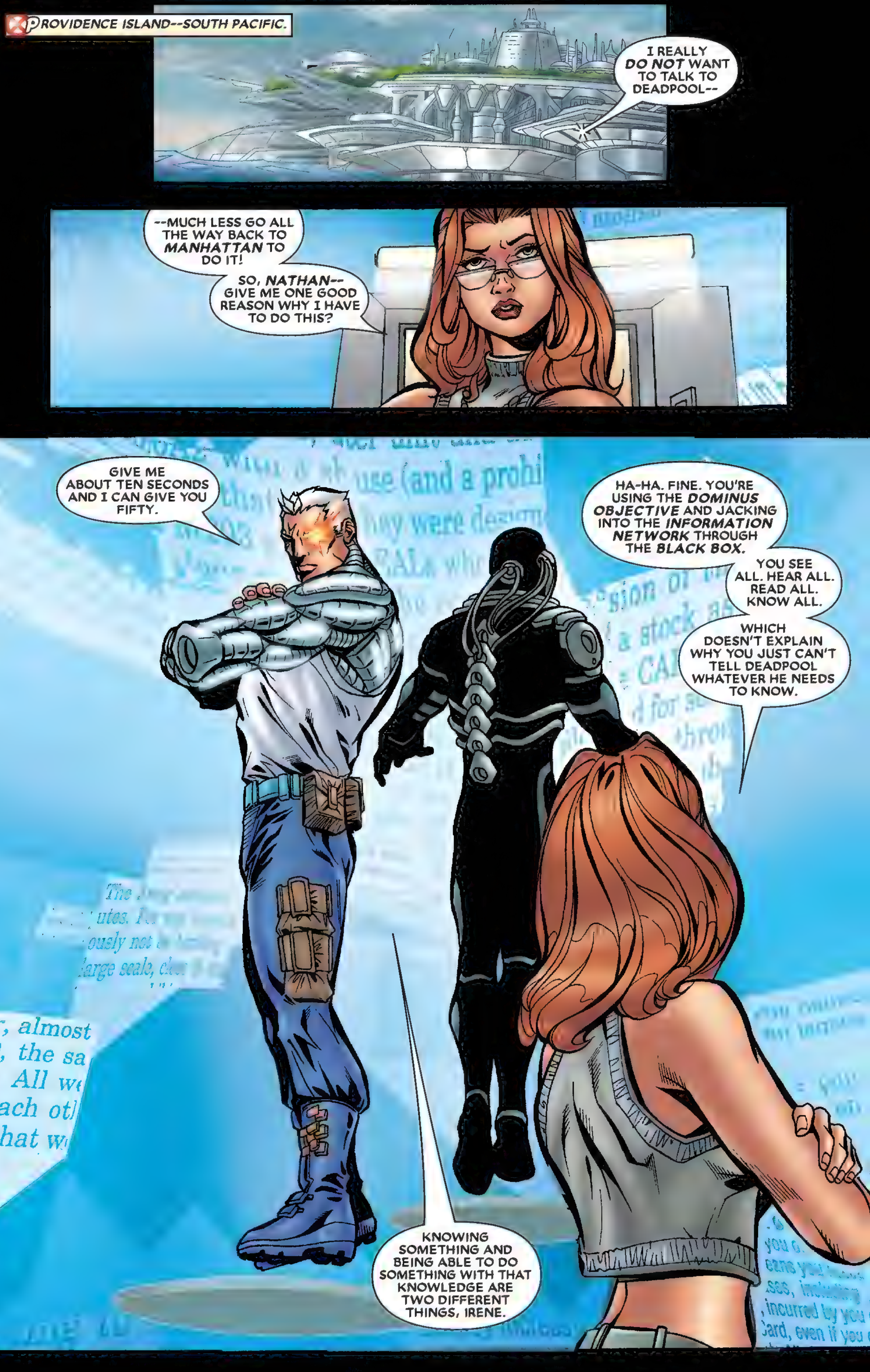
"STICKY SITUATIONS"

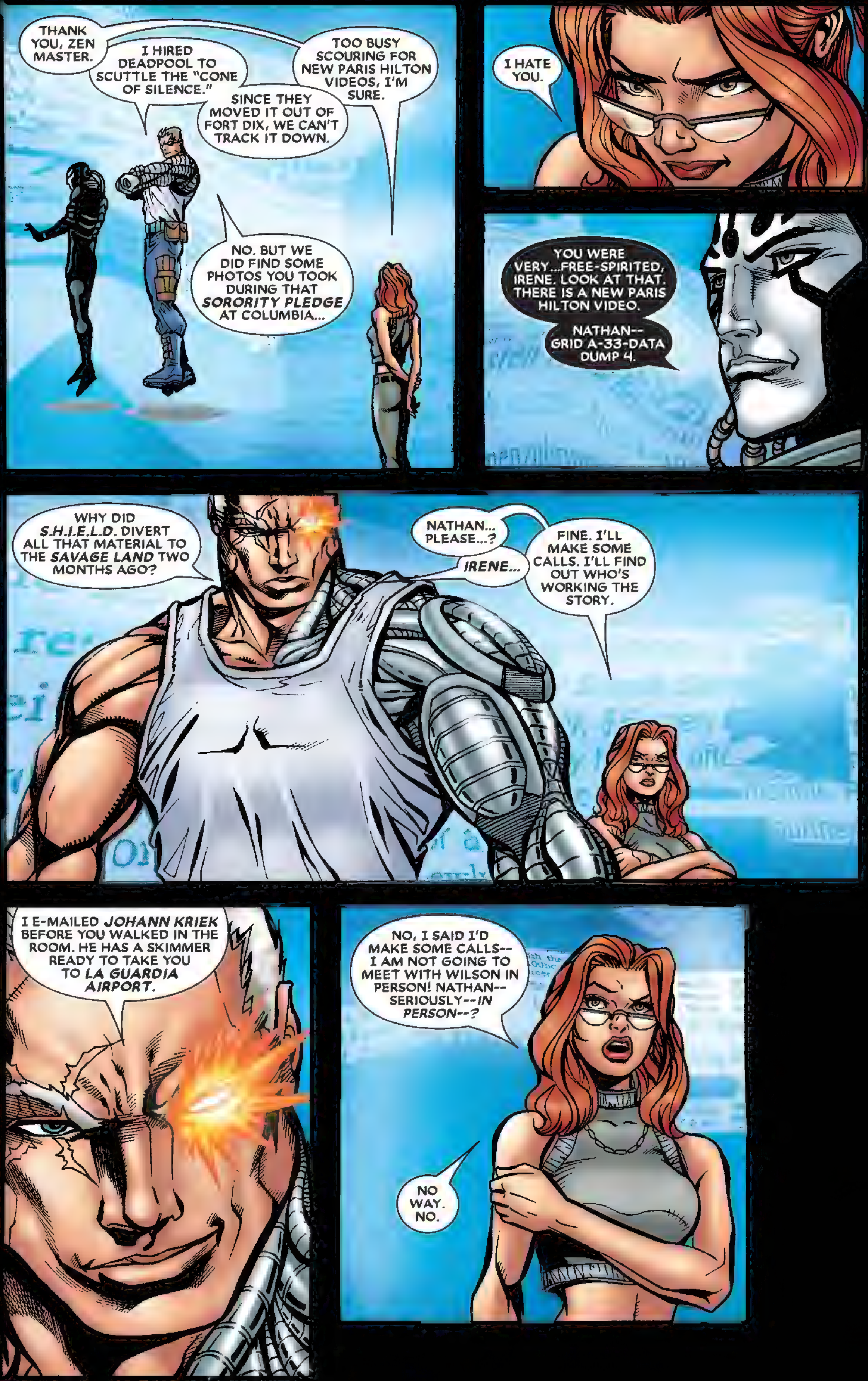

I'M IRENE MERRYWEATHER. I USED TO BE A REPORTER FOR THE DAILY BUGLE, MAJOR NEW YORK TABLOID.
NOW I'M THE DE FACTO CHIEF OF STAFF ON PROVIDENCE, A SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND HAVEN CREATED BY WOULD-BE WORLD SAVIOR FROM THE FUTURE, NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON SUMMERS.
HE'S USUALLY CALLED CABLE, BECAUSE FRANKLY, SAYING NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON SUMMERS REQUIRES TOO MUCH CONTINUITY EXPOSITION.
THE GUY IN THE RED MASK IS NAMED WADE WILSON. THE MERC WITH A MOUTH CALLED DEADPOOL.
HE USED TO JUST BE A SCARY, LETHAL INCONVENIENCE, NOW HE'S WORSE--HE'S CABLE'S FRIEND, WHICH MAKES HIM AN IRRITANT.
ANYWAY, EVEN THOUGH DEADPOOL DOESN'T KNOW IT, CABLE HAS BEEN HIRING HIM TO PULL MERC JOBS--MOSTLY SO WILSON CAN FEEL USEFUL.
RECENTLY, CABLE OBTAINED AN INFORMATION-GATHERING VIRUS CALLED THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE. NOW HE CAN JACK INTO THE GLOBAL INFONET AND BASICALLY REPLACE HIS MISSING TELEPATHY.
WHEN DO I GET TO TALK?
PATIENCE. SO ANYWAY, THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN SOME BIG PLANS CABLE HAS--WHICH HE'S NOT TELLING ME ABOUT. MAKES ME NERVOUS. ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HIRES DEADPOOL FOR ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT...
NOW?
NOW.
I'M KEN ELLIS. REPORTER FOR THE DAILY BUGLE, IT'S A MAJOR NEW YORK TAB--
I TOLD THEM THAT. YOU NEVER LISTEN.
YEAH. DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE OLDER? ANYWAY, I'VE SPENT THE LAST TWO MONTHS INVESTIGATING A HUSH-HUSH MILITARY RESEARCH PROJECT.
WHO SAYS HUSH-HUSH ANYMORE?
JOAN RIVERS CALLED. SHE WANTS HER FACE BACK. ANYWAY... SEEMS HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDS HAVE BEEN IMPROPERLY DIVERTED TO SOME SECRET PROJECT AND I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.
AND YOU WOULDN'T BE THE ONLY ONE...

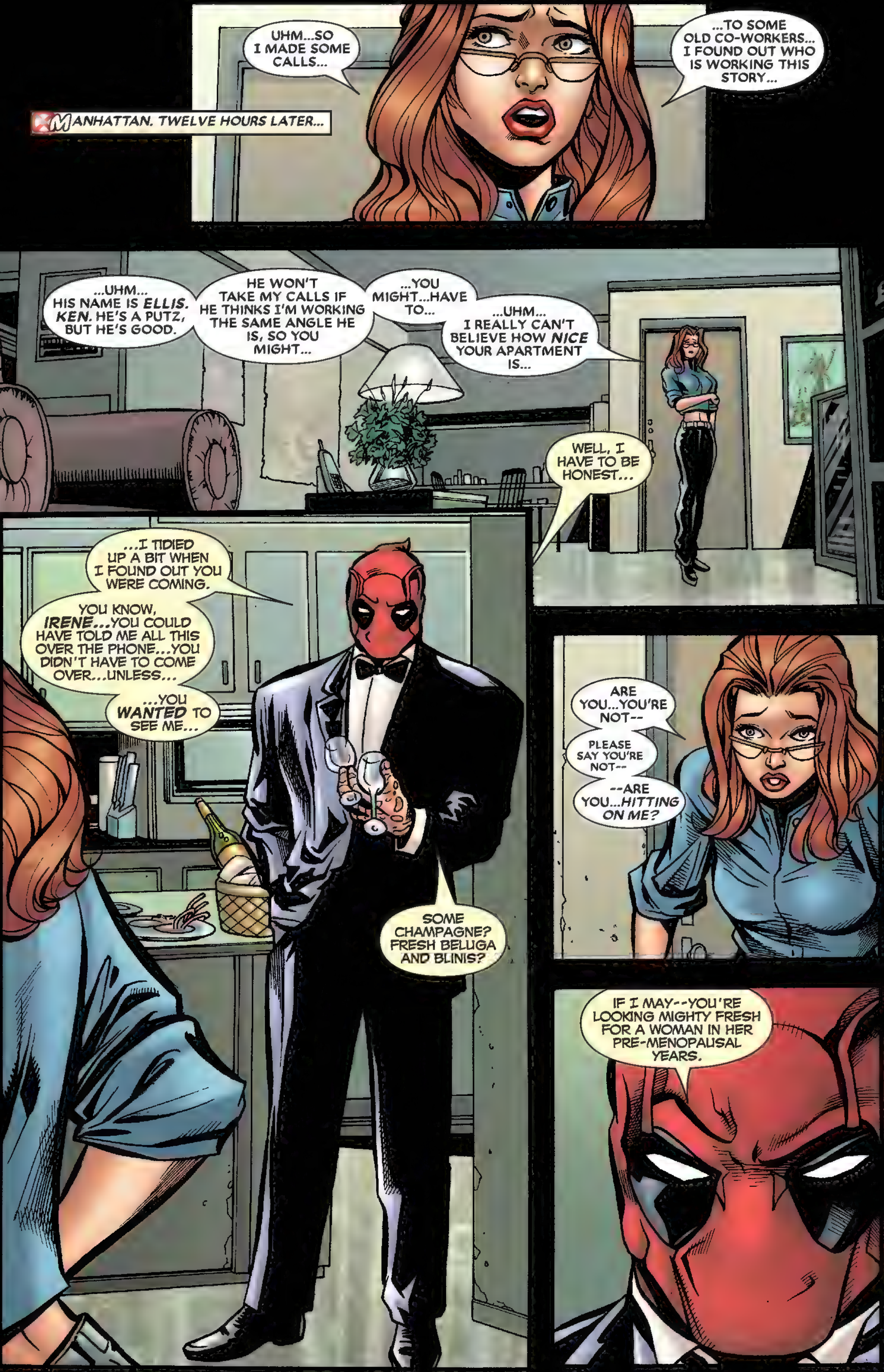

FORT DIX--NEW JERSEY.
OKAY, SO I HAVE, LIKE, A BAGFUL OF RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES FIGHTING SOLDIER!
EVEN YOU STATESIDE, DWEEB TRUCK-PACKERS.
WHEN I WAS A KID, I HAD A WHOLE BUNCHA G.I. JOES--AND I'M TALKIN' ORIGINAL PLASTIC-HAIR ONES, NOT THE FUZZY-HAIR KUNG-FU GRIP GUYS--
--OR THOSE LITTLE PANSY TINY ONES WITH THE FUNNY NAMES AND THE CARTOON--
--A CARTOON? PLASTIC-HAIR JOE WOULD ROLL OVER IN HIS GRAVE--UHM...IF HE COULD ROLL OVER...I SORT OF PULLED HIS ARMS 'N LEGS OFF...THEN BLEW HIM UP WITH AN M-80--
--BEFORE I BURIED HIM IN A SHOE BOX WITH MY HAMSTER, JOLLY NUTS... UHM...BETTER NOT TO ASK...
MAN, THAT M-80 BLEW JOE UP BUT GOOD...
U.S. ARMY
U.S.

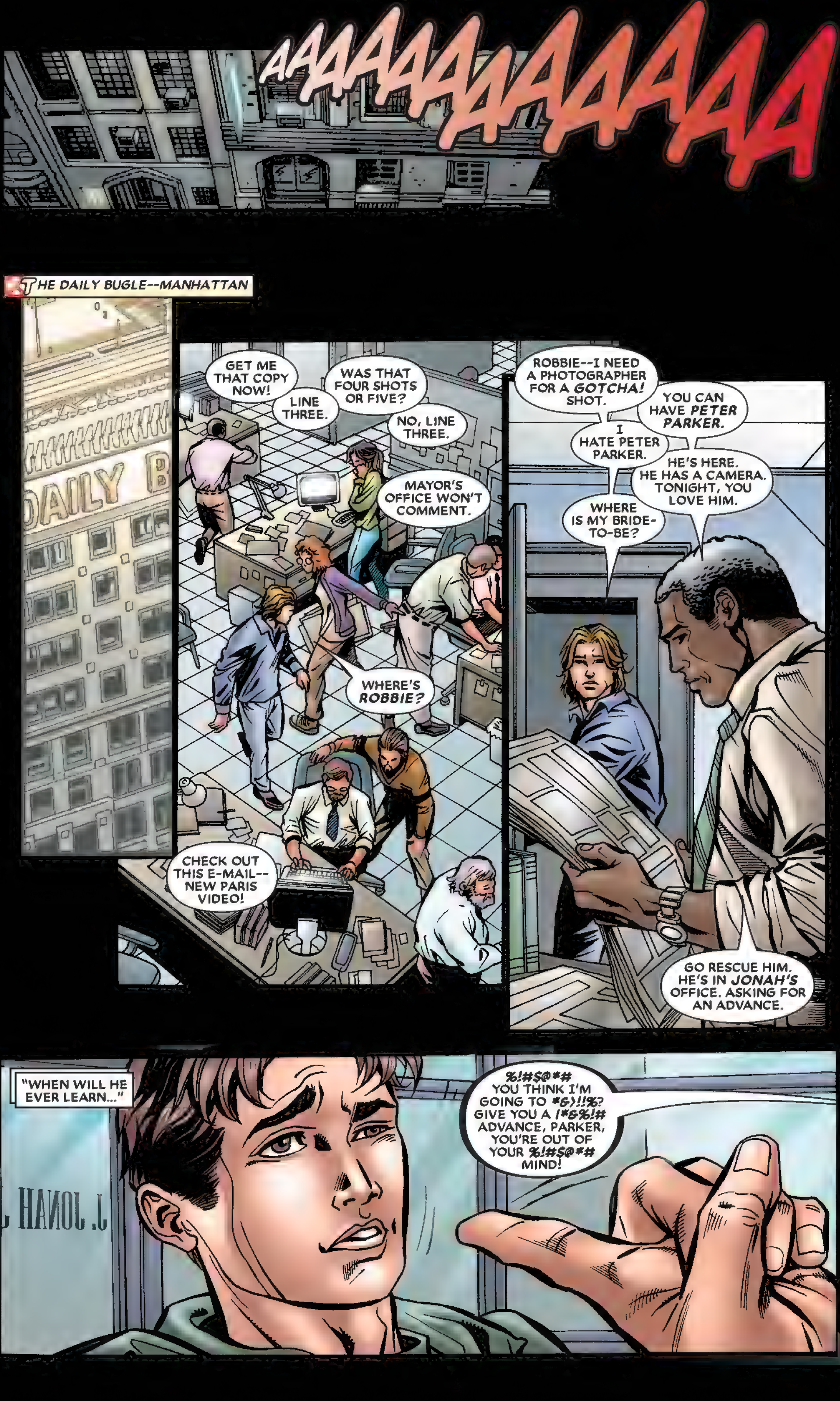

HEY-- HEY--
--WITH THE BULLETS AND GUNS AND THINGS!
I'M SITTING HERE SHOWING YOU THE LOVE, KEEPING MY CARNAGE AT A POLITE MARTHA STEWART-LEVEL, AND YOU HAVE TO GO 'N SHOOT ME!
IT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO MAKE ME STOP BEING SO GENTLE!
MY JOB WAS PRETTY CLEAR: COME IN AND SCUTTLE YOUR HIGHFALUTIN TOP SECRET RESEARCH PROGRAM WITH A MINIMUM OF NOISE.
UHM...SO... HAVING FAILED IN PART TWO, ANY OF YOU GUYS CONSCIOUS ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND PART ONE?
U.S. ARMY
OOOH--EVEN THE CAMOUFLAGE CAN'T FOOL ME! COMPUTER GEEKS ARE THE SAME ALL OVER THE WORLD!

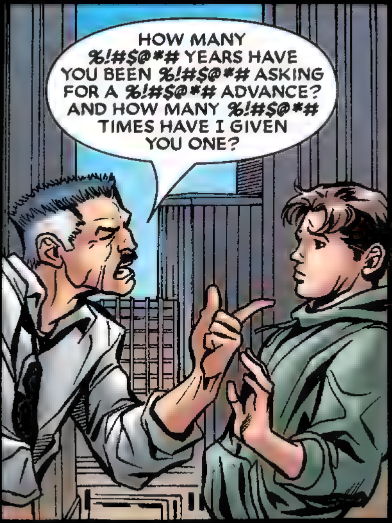

SO... BACKDOOR BOYS...ABOUT THIS HIGHFALUTIN SECRET MILITARY PROJECT?
I DON'T CARE WHO, HOW OR WHY--I JUST WANT TO KNOW *WHERE*, AS IN: IS IT.
IT'S NOT... I MEAN... W-WE WOU-WOULDN'T... HERE...TH-THIS IS...
KRAK
FIXED THAT STAMMER, HUH?
SO...
LISTEN...IT'S NOT HERE--*DON'T HIT ME, PLEASE*--LISTEN--
--I'VE BEEN TALKING TO SOMEONE--FROM THE *OUTSIDE*--TELLING HIM ABOUT *PROJECT: CONE OF SILENCE.*
HE'S A *DAILY BUGLE* REPORTER.
A REPORTER? SIR, IT IS AGAINST MY RELIGION TO TALK TO REPORTERS! EXCEPT MY LOVELY HOBBIT, *KATIE...*
HEY! WAIT A SEC--I KNOW SOMEONE WHO *USED* TO BE A REPORTER, SO I CAN TALK TO HER! AND THEN SHE CAN TALK TO...

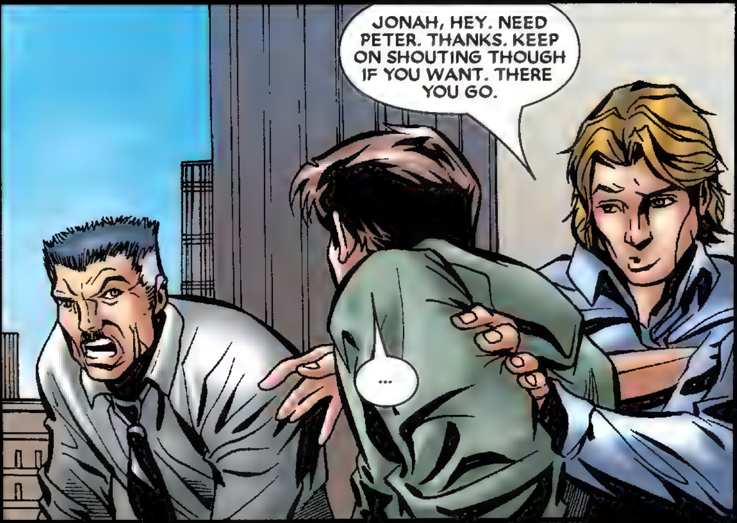

PROVIDENCE ISLAND--SOUTH PACIFIC.
I REALLY *DO NOT* WANT TO TALK TO DEADPOOL--
--MUCH LESS GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO *MANHATTAN* TO DO IT!
SO, *NATHAN*-- GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I HAVE TO DO THIS?
GIVE ME ABOUT TEN SECONDS AND I CAN GIVE YOU FIFTY.
HA-HA. FINE. YOU'RE USING THE *DOMINUS OBJECTIVE* AND JACKING INTO THE *INFORMATION NETWORK* THROUGH THE *BLACK BOX*.
YOU SEE ALL. HEAR ALL. READ ALL. KNOW ALL.
WHICH DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY YOU JUST CAN'T TELL DEADPOOL WHATEVER HE NEEDS TO KNOW.
KNOWING SOMETHING AND BEING ABLE TO DO SOMETHING WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS, IRENE.

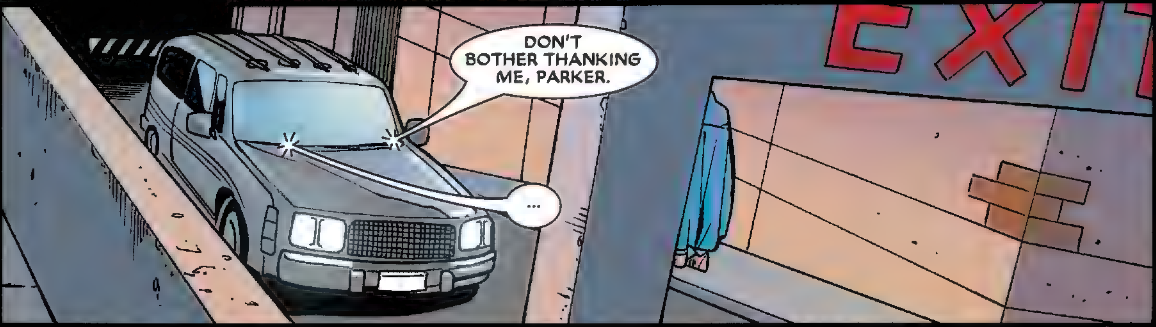

THANK YOU, ZEN MASTER.
TOO BUSY SCOURING FOR NEW PARIS HILTON VIDEOS, I'M SURE.
I HIRED DEADPOOL TO SCUTTLE THE "CONE OF SILENCE."
SINCE THEY MOVED IT OUT OF FORT DIX, WE CAN'T TRACK IT DOWN.
NO. BUT WE DID FIND SOME PHOTOS YOU TOOK DURING THAT *SORORITY PLEDGE* AT COLUMBIA...
I HATE YOU.
YOU WERE VERY...FREE-SPIRITED, IRENE. LOOK AT THAT. THERE IS A NEW PARIS HILTON VIDEO.
NATHAN--GRID A-33-DATA DUMP 4.
WHY DID *S.H.I.E.L.D.* DIVERT ALL THAT MATERIAL TO THE *SAVAGE LAND* TWO MONTHS AGO?
NATHAN... PLEASE...?
IRENE...
FINE. I'LL MAKE SOME CALLS. I'LL FIND OUT WHO'S WORKING THE STORY.
I E-MAILED *JOHANN KRIEK* BEFORE YOU WALKED IN THE ROOM. HE HAS A SKIMMER READY TO TAKE YOU TO *LA GUARDIA AIRPORT.*
NO, I SAID I'D MAKE SOME CALLS--I AM NOT GOING TO MEET WITH WILSON IN PERSON! NATHAN--SERIOUSLY--*IN PERSON*--?
NO WAY. NO.

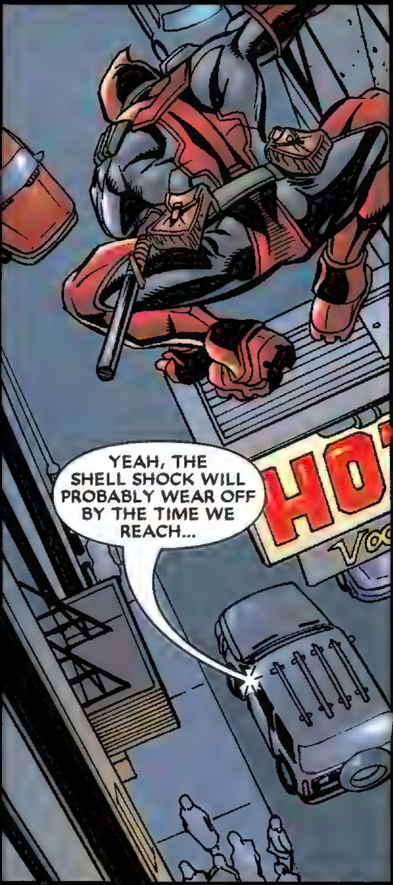

MANHATTAN. TWELVE HOURS LATER...
UHM...SO I MADE SOME CALLS...
...TO SOME OLD CO-WORKERS... I FOUND OUT WHO IS WORKING THIS STORY...
...UHM... HIS NAME IS ELLIS. KEN. HE'S A PUTZ, BUT HE'S GOOD.
HE WON'T TAKE MY CALLS IF HE THINKS I'M WORKING THE SAME ANGLE HE IS, SO YOU MIGHT...
...YOU MIGHT...HAVE TO...
...UHM... I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE HOW NICE YOUR APARTMENT IS...
WELL, I HAVE TO BE HONEST...
...I TIDIED UP A BIT WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE COMING.
YOU KNOW, IRENE...YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME ALL THIS OVER THE PHONE...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME OVER...UNLESS...
...YOU WANTED TO SEE ME...
SOME CHAMPAGNE? FRESH BELUGA AND BLINIS?
ARE YOU...YOU'RE NOT--
PLEASE SAY YOU'RE NOT--
--ARE YOU...HITTING ON ME?
IF I MAY--YOU'RE LOOKING MIGHTY FRESH FOR A WOMAN IN HER PRE-MENOPAUSAL YEARS.

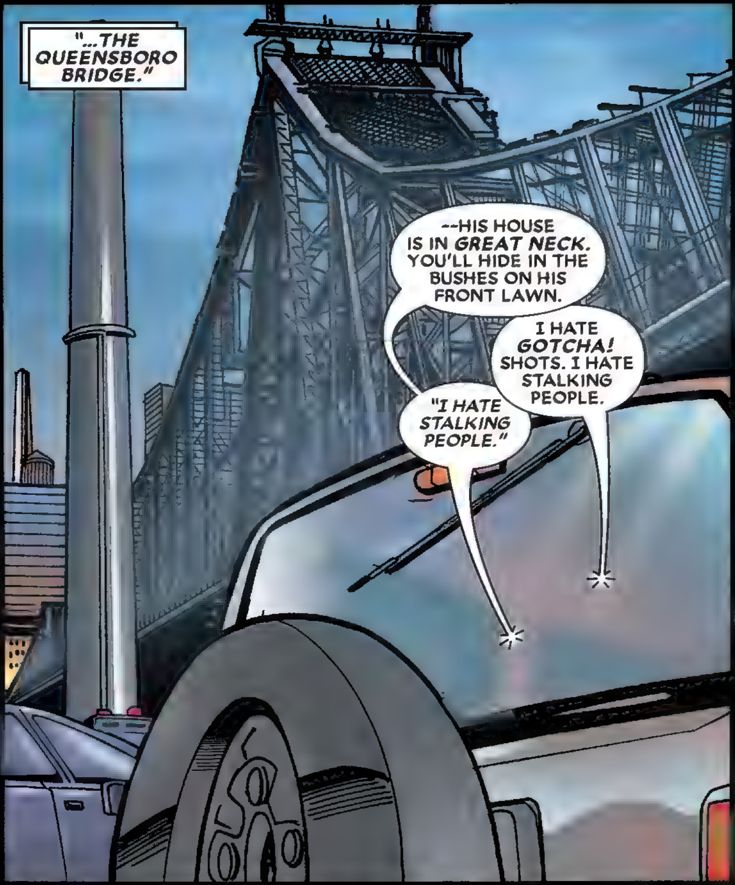

AAAAAAAAAAAAA
THE DAILY BUGLE--MANHATTAN
DAILY B
GET ME THAT COPY NOW!
LINE THREE.
WAS THAT FOUR SHOTS OR FIVE?
NO, LINE THREE.
MAYOR'S OFFICE WON'T COMMENT.
WHERE'S *ROBBIE?*
CHECK OUT THIS E-MAIL-- NEW PARIS VIDEO!
ROBBIE--I NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR A *GOTCHA!* SHOT.
YOU CAN HAVE *PETER PARKER.*
I HATE PETER PARKER.
HE'S HERE. HE HAS A CAMERA. TONIGHT, YOU LOVE HIM.
WHERE IS MY BRIDE-TO-BE?
GO RESCUE HIM. HE'S IN *JONAH'S* OFFICE. ASKING FOR AN ADVANCE.
"WHEN WILL HE EVER LEARN..."
%!#$@*# YOU THINK I'M GOING TO *&)!!%? GIVE YOU A !*&%!# ADVANCE, PARKER, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR %!#$@*# MIND!

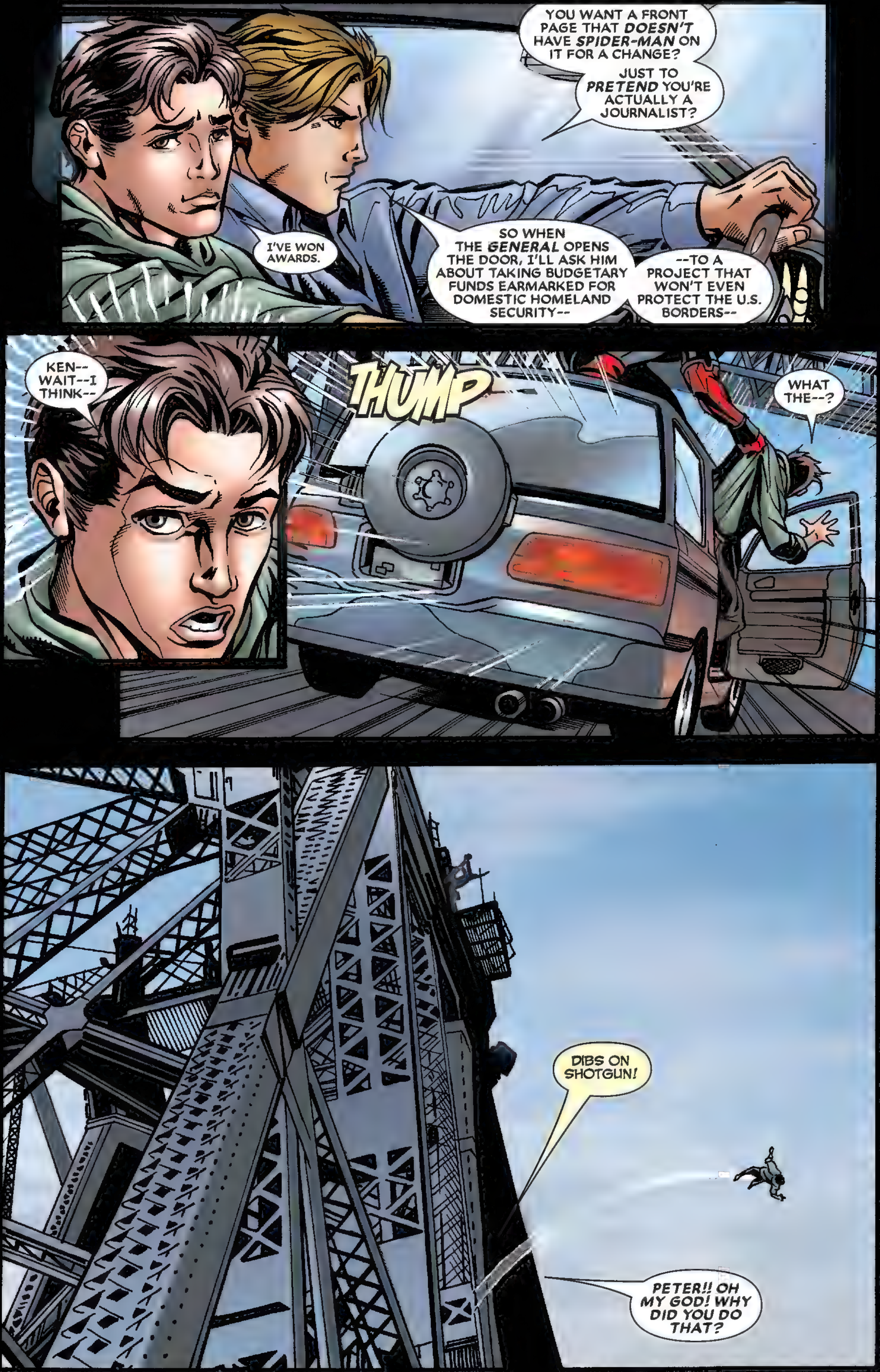

HOW MANY %!#$@*# YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN %!#$@*# ASKING FOR A %!#$@*# ADVANCE? AND HOW MANY %!#$@*# TIMES HAVE I GIVEN YOU ONE?

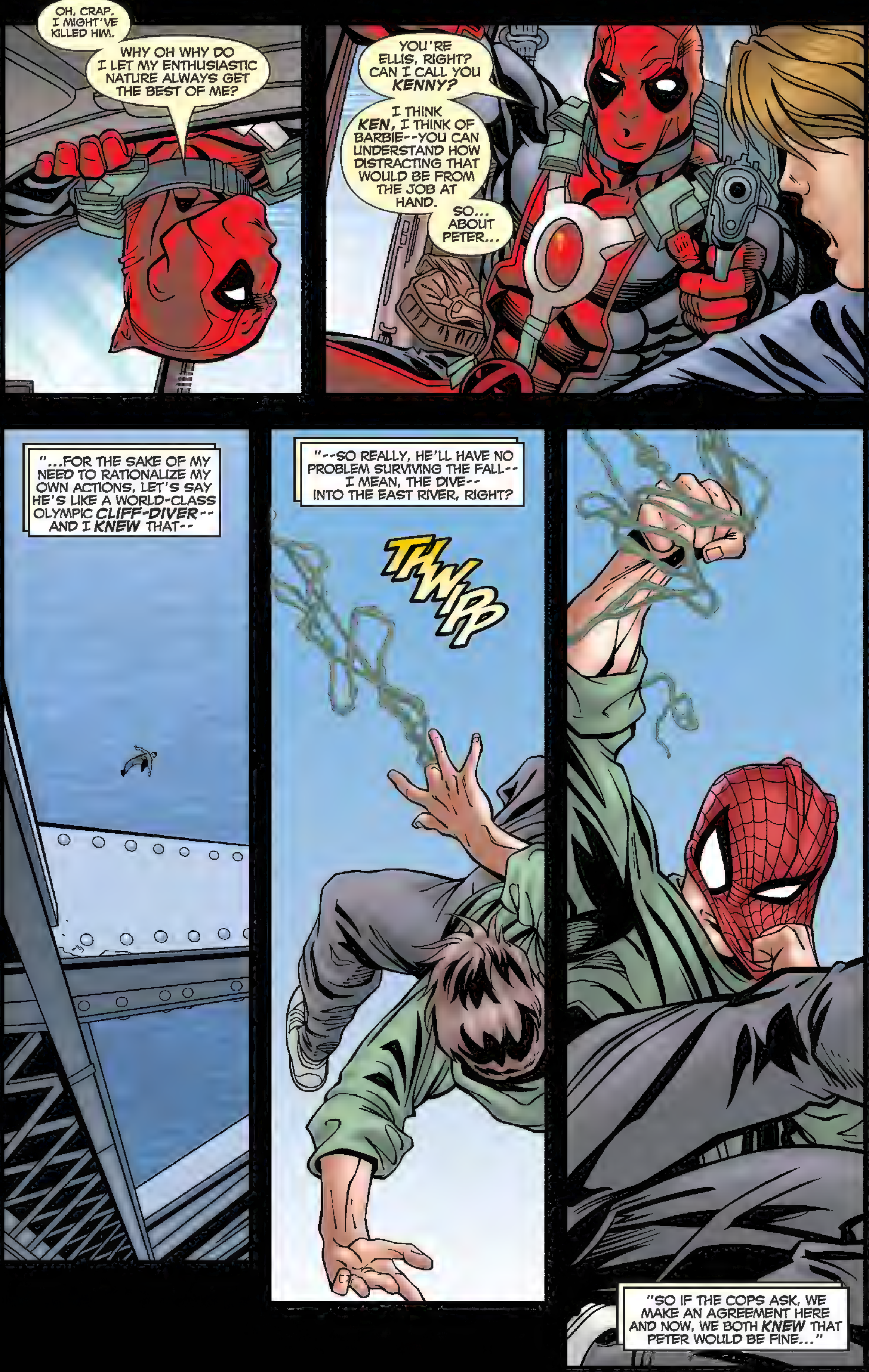

JONAH, HEY. NEED PETER. THANKS. KEEP ON SHOUTING THOUGH IF YOU WANT. THERE YOU GO.
...

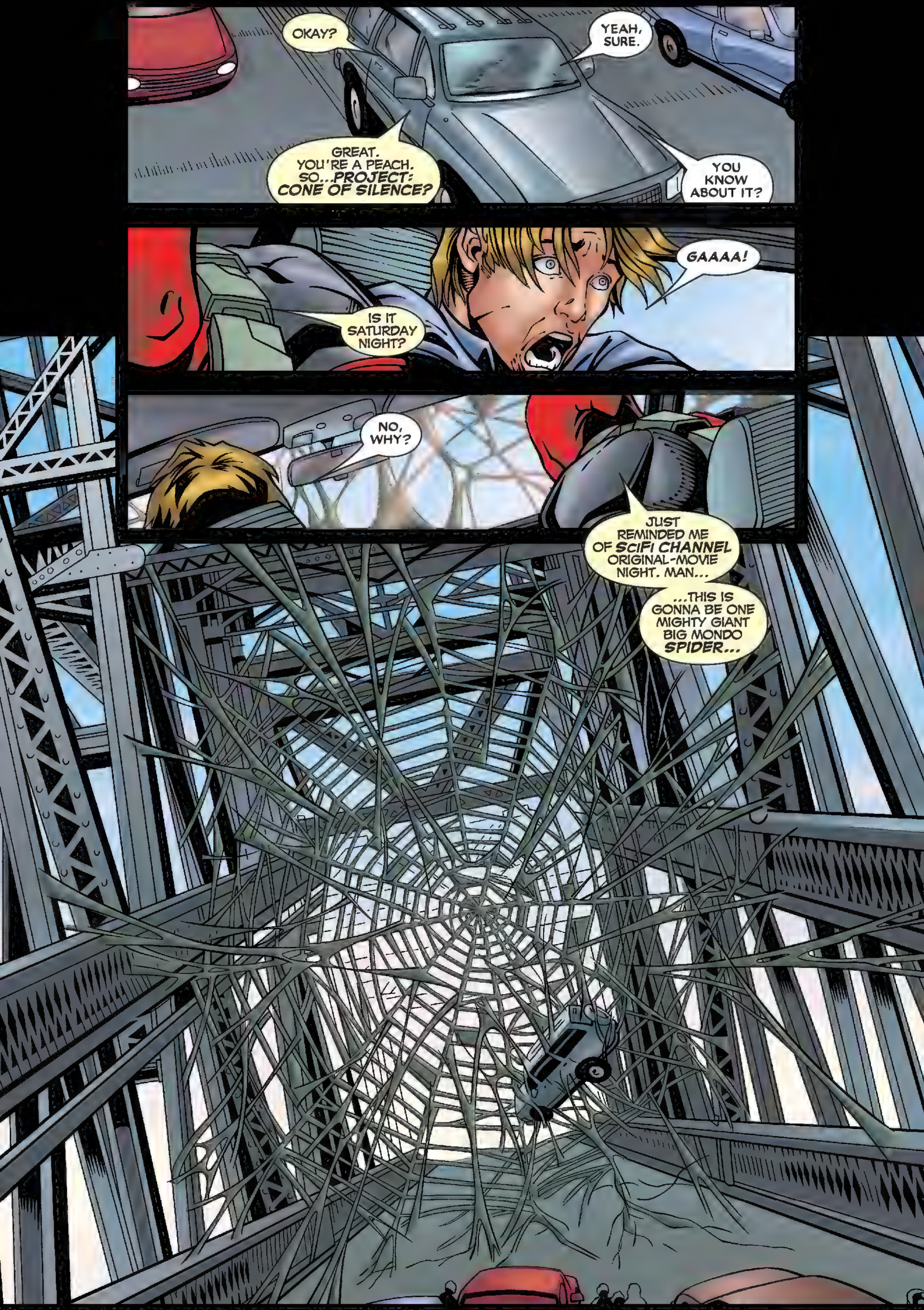

EXIT
DON'T BOTHER THANKING ME, PARKER.
...

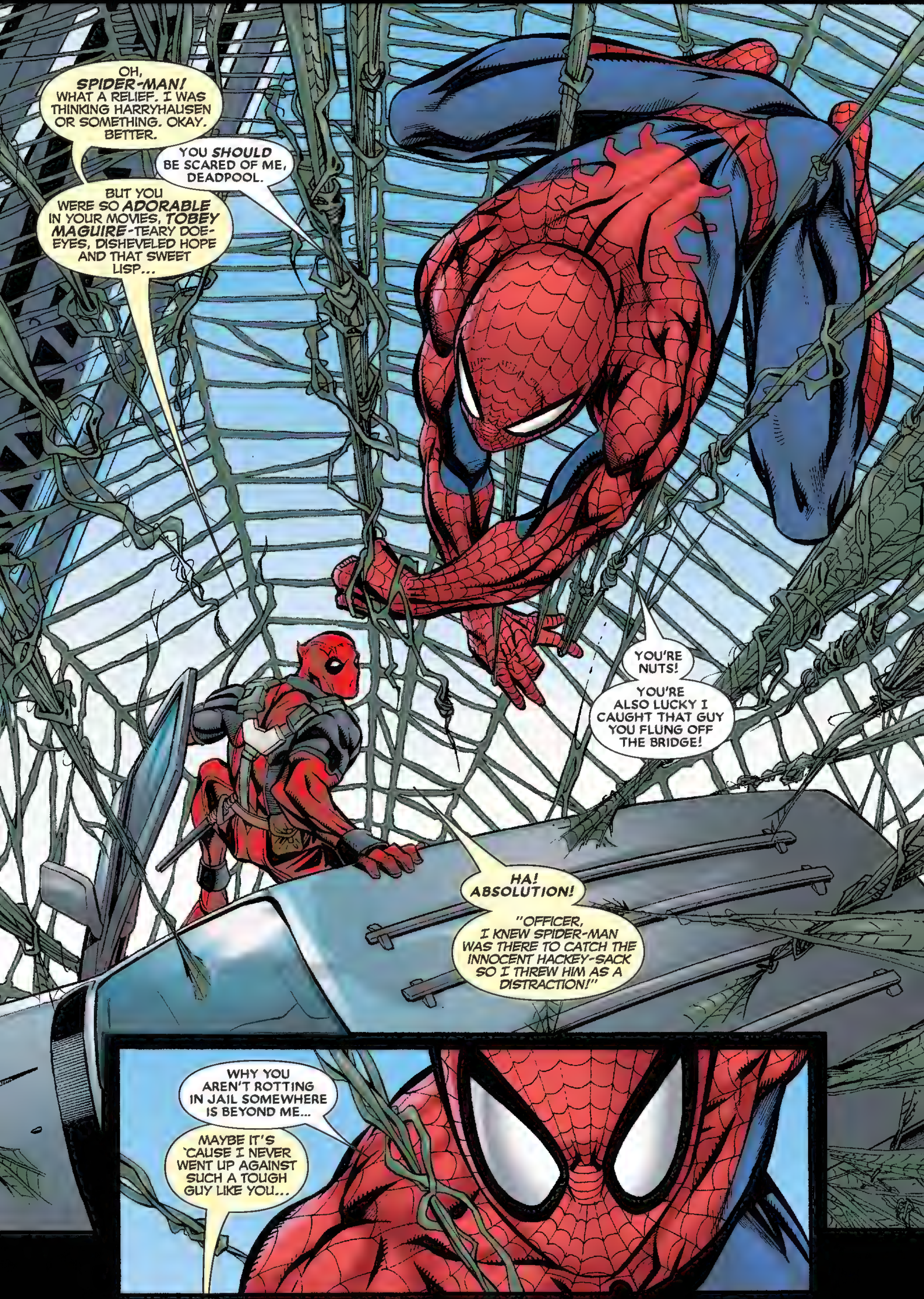

HO
YEAH, THE SHELL SHOCK WILL PROBABLY WEAR OFF BY THE TIME WE REACH...

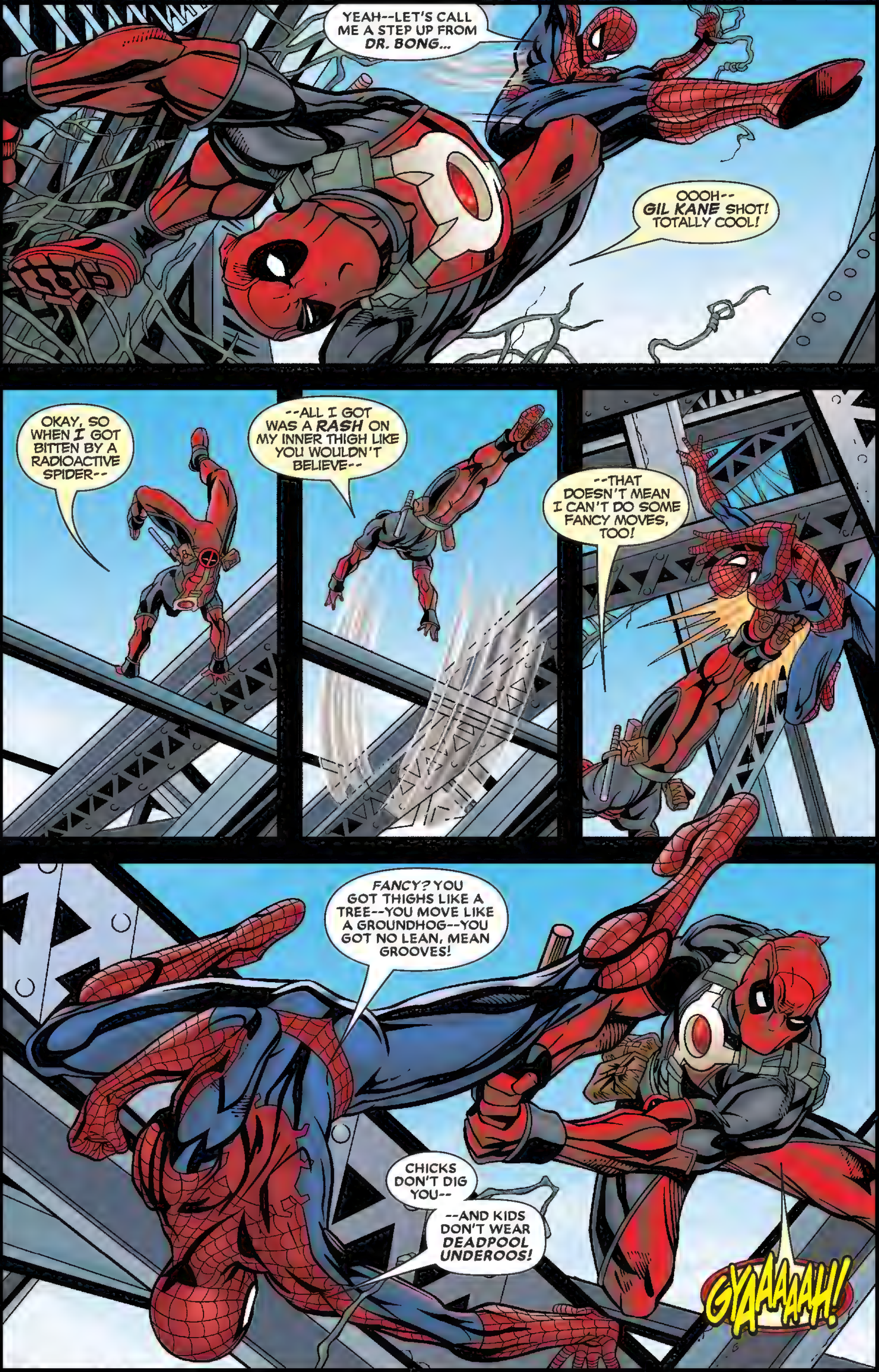

"...THE QUEENSBORO BRIDGE."
--HIS HOUSE IS IN GREAT NECK. YOU'LL HIDE IN THE BUSHES ON HIS FRONT LAWN.
"I HATE STALKING PEOPLE."
I HATE GOTCHA! SHOTS. I HATE STALKING PEOPLE.

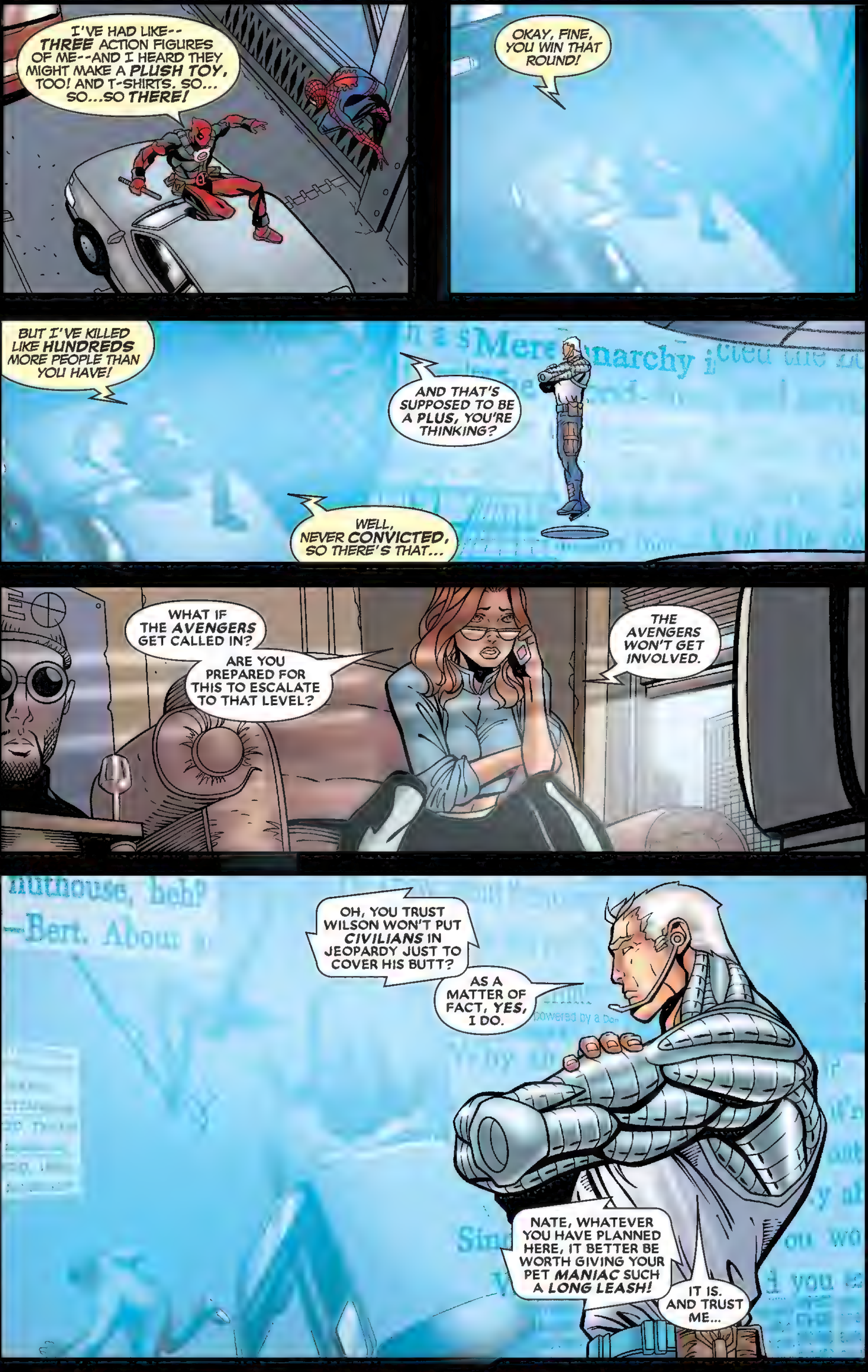

YOU WANT A FRONT PAGE THAT *DOESN'T* HAVE *SPIDER-MAN* ON IT FOR A CHANGE?
JUST TO *PRETEND* YOU'RE ACTUALLY A JOURNALIST?
I'VE WON AWARDS.
SO WHEN THE *GENERAL* OPENS THE DOOR, I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT TAKING BUDGETARY FUNDS EARMARKED FOR DOMESTIC HOMELAND SECURITY--
--TO A PROJECT THAT WON'T EVEN PROTECT THE U.S. BORDERS--
KEN--WAIT--I THINK--
THUMP
WHAT THE--?
DIBS ON SHOTGUN!
PETER!! OH MY GOD! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

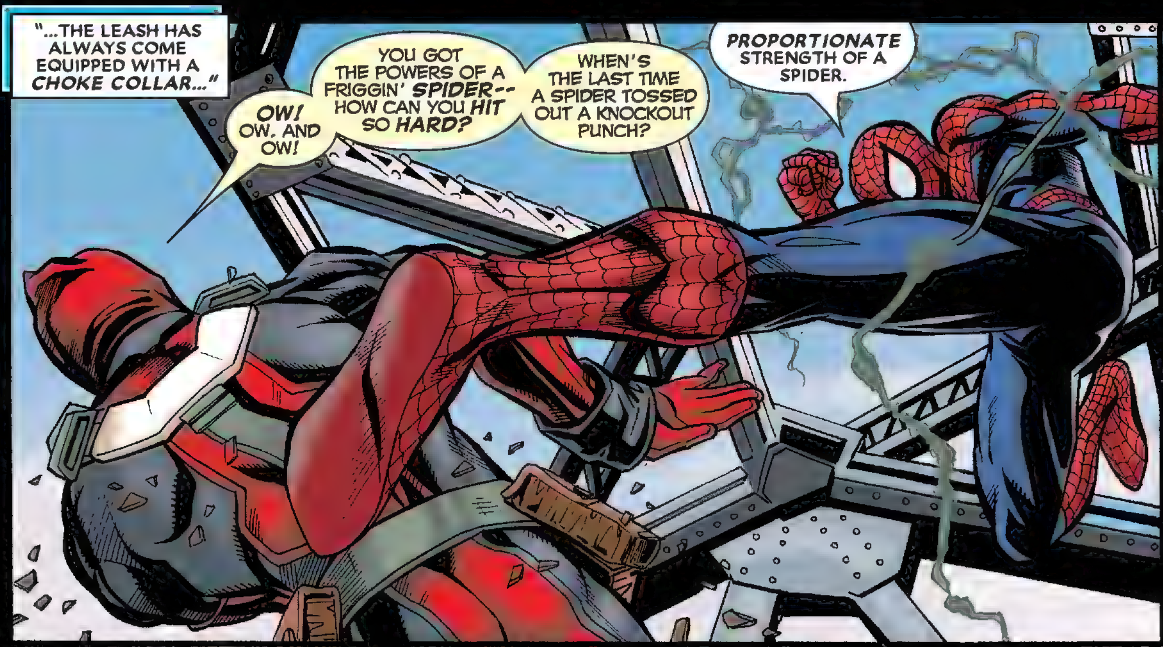

OH, CRAP. I MIGHT'VE KILLED HIM.
WHY OH WHY DO I LET MY ENTHUSIASTIC NATURE ALWAYS GET THE BEST OF ME?
YOU'RE ELLIS, RIGHT? CAN I CALL YOU *KENNY?*
I THINK *KEN,* I THINK OF BARBIE--YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW DISTRACTING THAT WOULD BE FROM THE JOB AT HAND.
SO... ABOUT PETER...
"...FOR THE SAKE OF MY NEED TO RATIONALIZE MY OWN ACTIONS, LET'S SAY HE'S LIKE A WORLD-CLASS OLYMPIC *CLIFF-DIVER*--AND I *KNEW* THAT--
"--SO REALLY, HE'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM SURVIVING THE FALL--I MEAN, THE DIVE--INTO THE EAST RIVER, RIGHT?
THWIPP
"SO IF THE COPS ASK, WE MAKE AN AGREEMENT HERE AND NOW, WE BOTH *KNEW* THAT PETER WOULD BE FINE..."

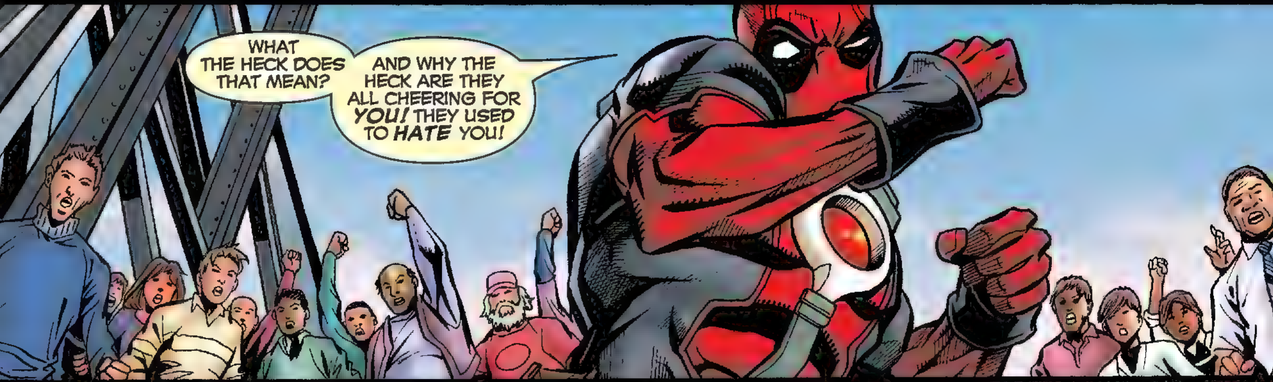

OKAY?
YEAH, SURE.
GREAT. YOU'RE A PEACH. SO...*PROJECT: CONE OF SILENCE?*
YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
GAAAA!
IS IT SATURDAY NIGHT?
NO, WHY?
JUST REMINDED ME OF *SciFi CHANNEL* ORIGINAL-MOVIE NIGHT. MAN...
...THIS IS GONNA BE ONE MIGHTY GIANT BIG MONDO *SPIDER...*

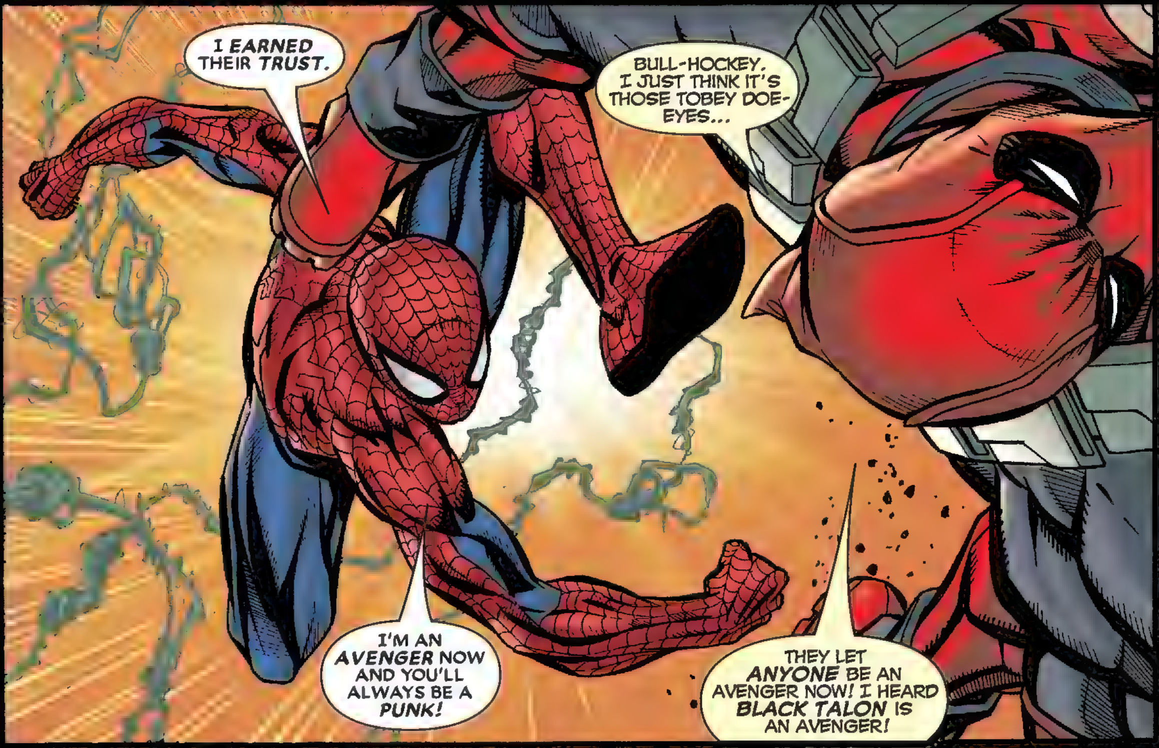

OH, ***SPIDER-MAN!*** WHAT A RELIEF. I WAS THINKING HARRYHAUSEN OR SOMETHING. OKAY. BETTER.
YOU ***SHOULD*** BE SCARED OF ME, DEADPOOL.
BUT YOU WERE SO ***ADORABLE*** IN YOUR MOVIES, ***TOBEY MAGUIRE***-TEARY DOE-EYES, DISHEVELED HOPE AND THAT SWEET LISP...
YOU'RE NUTS!
YOU'RE ALSO LUCKY I CAUGHT THAT GUY YOU FLUNG OFF THE BRIDGE!
HA! ABSOLUTION!
"OFFICER, I KNEW SPIDER-MAN WAS THERE TO CATCH THE INNOCENT HACKEY-SACK SO I THREW HIM AS A DISTRACTION!"
WHY YOU AREN'T ROTTING IN JAIL SOMEWHERE IS BEYOND ME...
MAYBE IT'S 'CAUSE I NEVER WENT UP AGAINST SUCH A TOUGH GUY LIKE YOU...

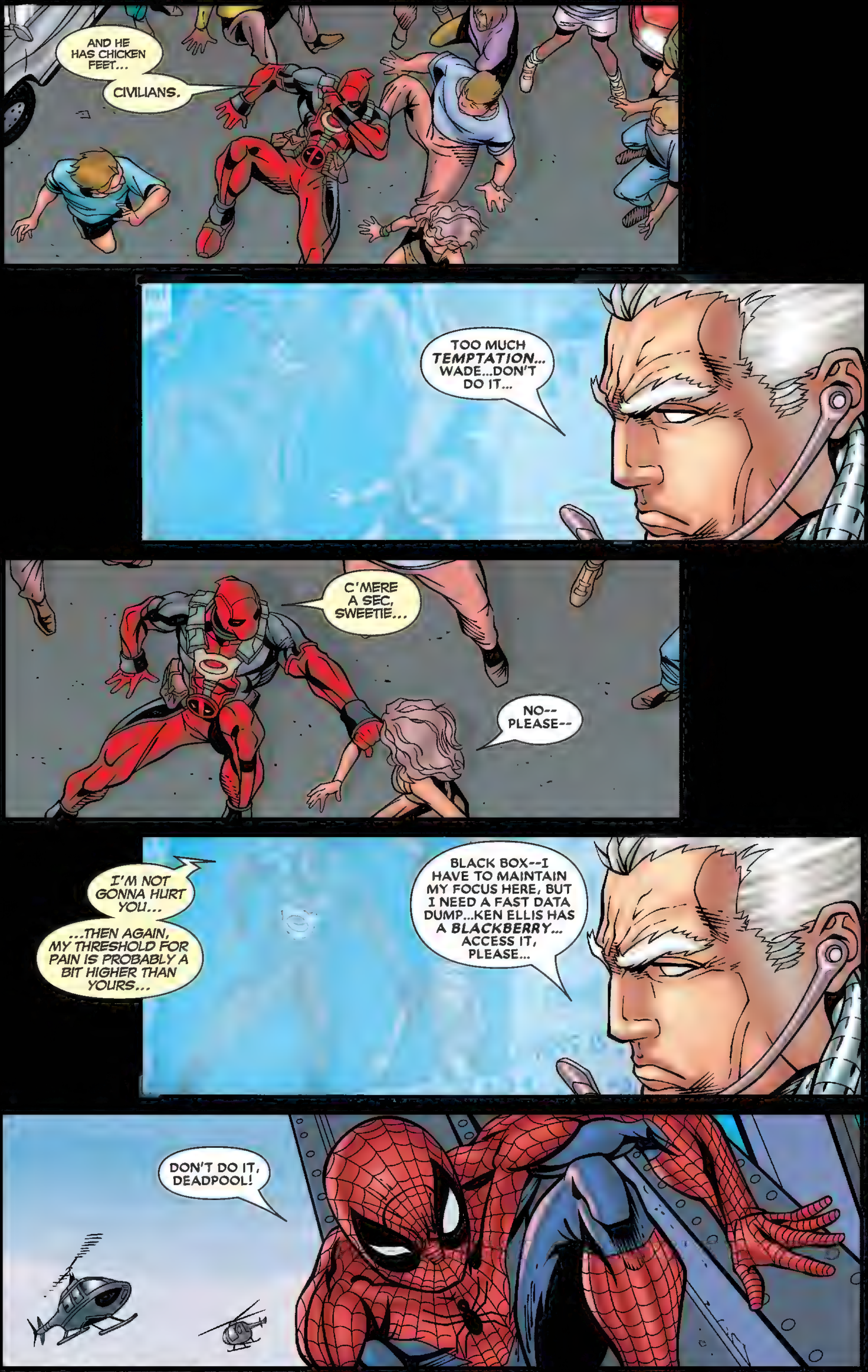

YEAH--LET'S CALL ME A STEP UP FROM DR. BONG...
OOOH-- GIL KANE SHOT! TOTALLY COOL!
OKAY, SO WHEN I GOT BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER--
--ALL I GOT WAS A RASH ON MY INNER THIGH LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE--
--THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T DO SOME FANCY MOVES, TOO!
FANCY? YOU GOT THIGHS LIKE A TREE--YOU MOVE LIKE A GROUNDHOG--YOU GOT NO LEAN, MEAN GROOVES!
CHICKS DON'T DIG YOU--
--AND KIDS DON'T WEAR DEADPOOL UNDEROOS!
GYAAAAAH!

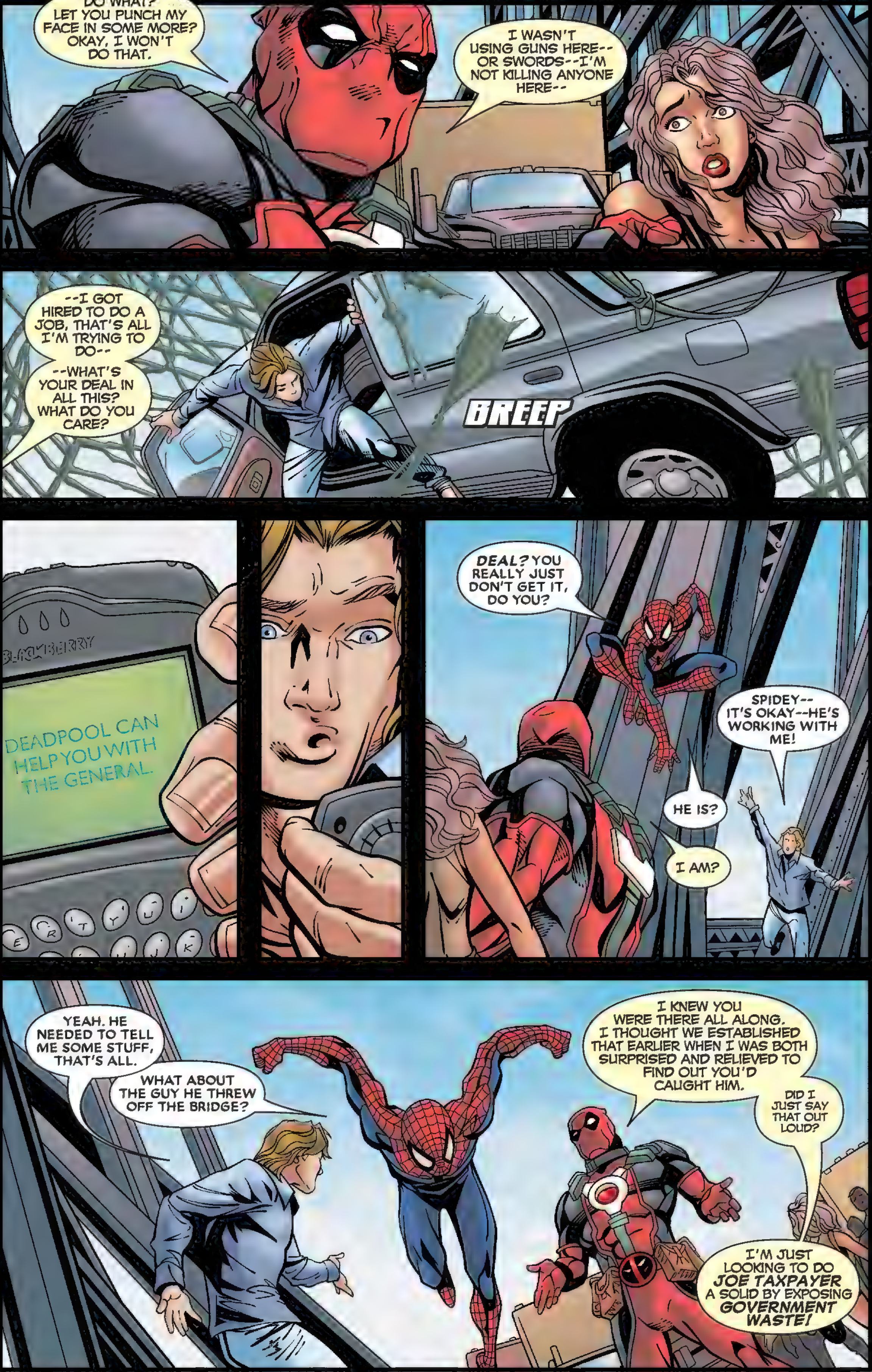

I'VE HAD LIKE-- THREE ACTION FIGURES OF ME--AND I HEARD THEY MIGHT MAKE A PLUSH TOY, TOO! AND T-SHIRTS. SO... SO...SO THERE!
OKAY, FINE, YOU WIN THAT ROUND!
BUT I'VE KILLED LIKE HUNDREDS MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU HAVE!
AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A PLUS, YOU'RE THINKING?
WELL, NEVER CONVICTED, SO THERE'S THAT...
WHAT IF THE AVENGERS GET CALLED IN?
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THIS TO ESCALATE TO THAT LEVEL?
THE AVENGERS WON'T GET INVOLVED.
OH, YOU TRUST WILSON WON'T PUT CIVILIANS IN JEOPARDY JUST TO COVER HIS BUTT?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES, I DO.
NATE, WHATEVER YOU HAVE PLANNED HERE, IT BETTER BE WORTH GIVING YOUR PET MANIAC SUCH A LONG LEASH!
IT IS. AND TRUST ME...

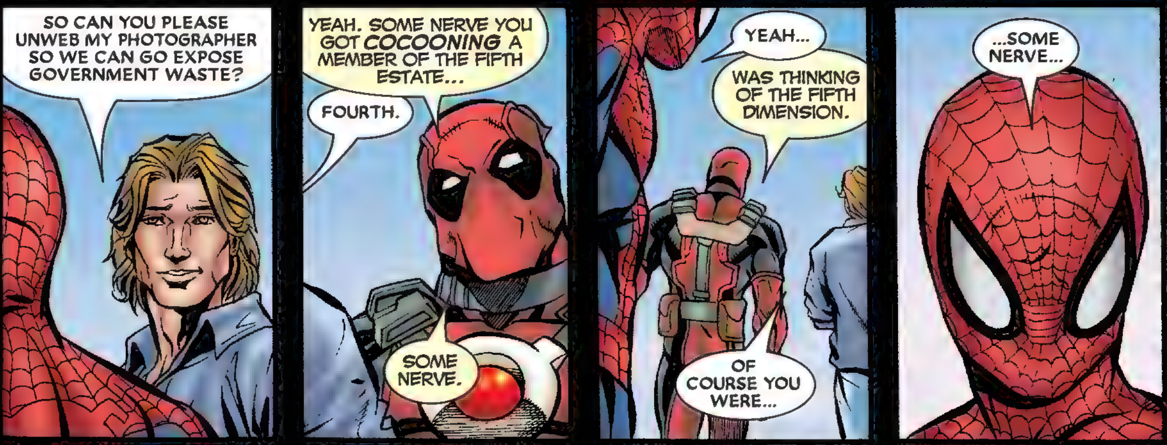

"...THE LEASH HAS ALWAYS COME EQUIPPED WITH A *CHOKE COLLAR...*"
OW! OW. AND OW!
YOU GOT THE POWERS OF A FRIGGIN' *SPIDER*-- HOW CAN YOU *HIT* SO *HARD?*
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME A SPIDER TOSSED OUT A KNOCKOUT PUNCH?
PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER.

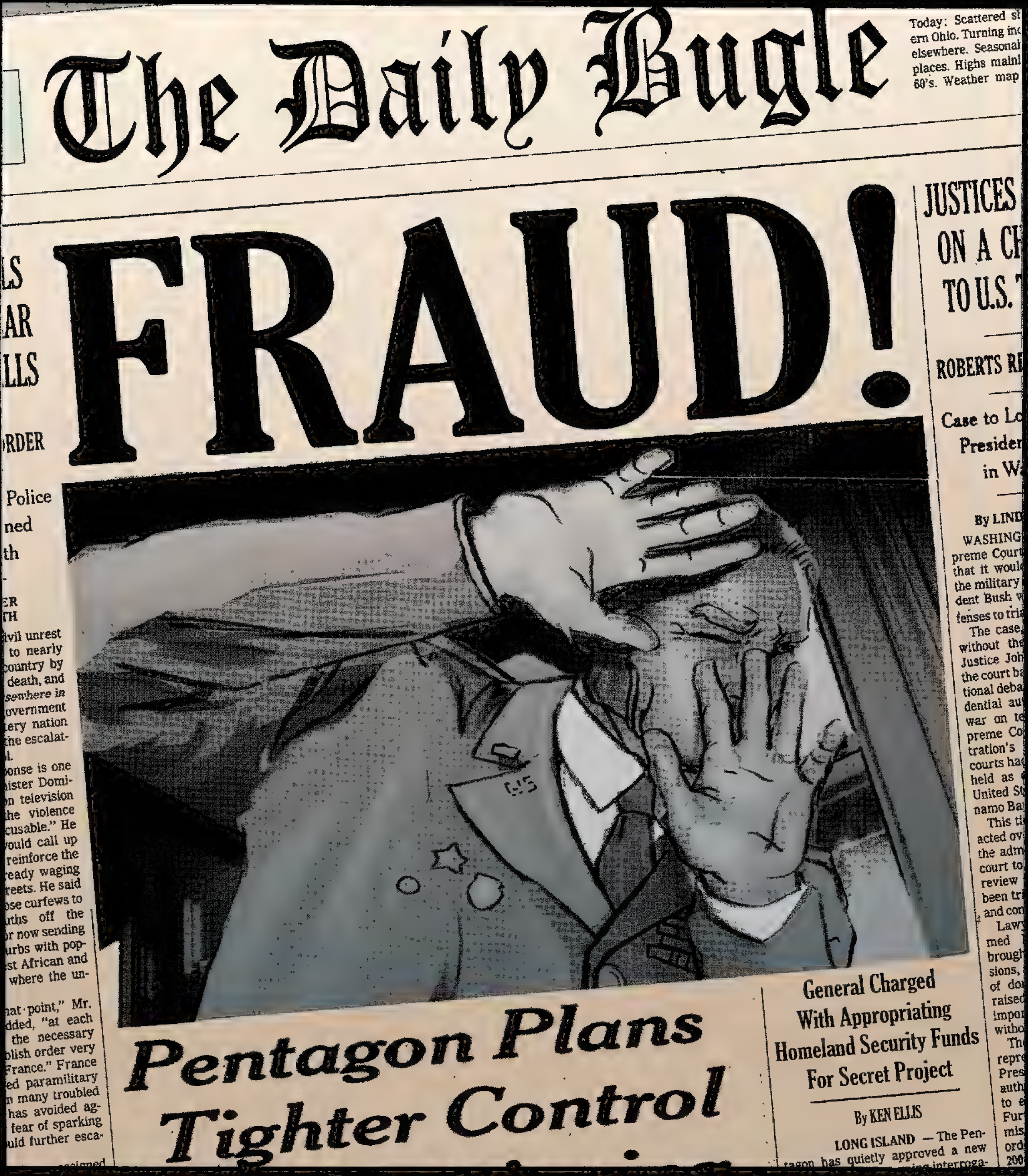

WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
AND WHY THE HECK ARE THEY ALL CHEERING FOR *YOU!* THEY USED TO *HATE* YOU!


I *EARNED* THEIR *TRUST*.
BULL-HOCKEY. I JUST THINK IT'S THOSE TOBEY DOE-EYES...
I'M AN *AVENGER* NOW AND YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A *PUNK!*
THEY LET *ANYONE* BE AN AVENGER NOW! I HEARD *BLACK TALON* IS AN AVENGER!


AND HE HAS CHICKEN FEET...
CIVILIANS.
TOO MUCH *TEMPTATION*... WADE...DON'T DO IT...
C'MERE A SEC, SWEETIE...
NO-- PLEASE--
I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU...
...THEN AGAIN, MY THRESHOLD FOR PAIN IS PROBABLY A BIT HIGHER THAN YOURS...
BLACK BOX--I HAVE TO MAINTAIN MY FOCUS HERE, BUT I NEED A FAST DATA DUMP...KEN ELLIS HAS A *BLACKBERRY*... ACCESS IT, PLEASE...
DON'T DO IT, DEADPOOL!


DO WHAT? LET YOU PUNCH MY FACE IN SOME MORE? OKAY, I WON'T DO THAT.
I WASN'T USING GUNS HERE-- OR SWORDS--I'M NOT KILLING ANYONE HERE--
--I GOT HIRED TO DO A JOB, THAT'S ALL I'M TRYING TO DO--
--WHAT'S YOUR DEAL IN ALL THIS? WHAT DO YOU CARE?
BREEP
BLACKBERRY
DEADPOOL CAN HELP YOU WITH THE GENERAL.
DEAL? YOU REALLY JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
SPIDEY-- IT'S OKAY--HE'S WORKING WITH ME!
HE IS?
I AM?
YEAH. HE NEEDED TO TELL ME SOME STUFF, THAT'S ALL.
WHAT ABOUT THE GUY HE THREW OFF THE BRIDGE?
I KNEW YOU WERE THERE ALL ALONG. I THOUGHT WE ESTABLISHED THAT EARLIER WHEN I WAS BOTH SURPRISED AND RELIEVED TO FIND OUT YOU'D CAUGHT HIM.
DID I JUST SAY THAT OUT LOUD?
I'M JUST LOOKING TO DO *JOE TAXPAYER* A SOLID BY EXPOSING *GOVERNMENT WASTE!*


SO CAN YOU PLEASE UNWEB MY PHOTOGRAPHER SO WE CAN GO EXPOSE GOVERNMENT WASTE?
YEAH. SOME NERVE YOU GOT *COCOONING* A MEMBER OF THE FIFTH ESTATE...
FOURTH.
SOME NERVE.
YEAH...
WAS THINKING OF THE FIFTH DIMENSION.
OF COURSE YOU WERE...
...SOME NERVE...



The Daily Bugle

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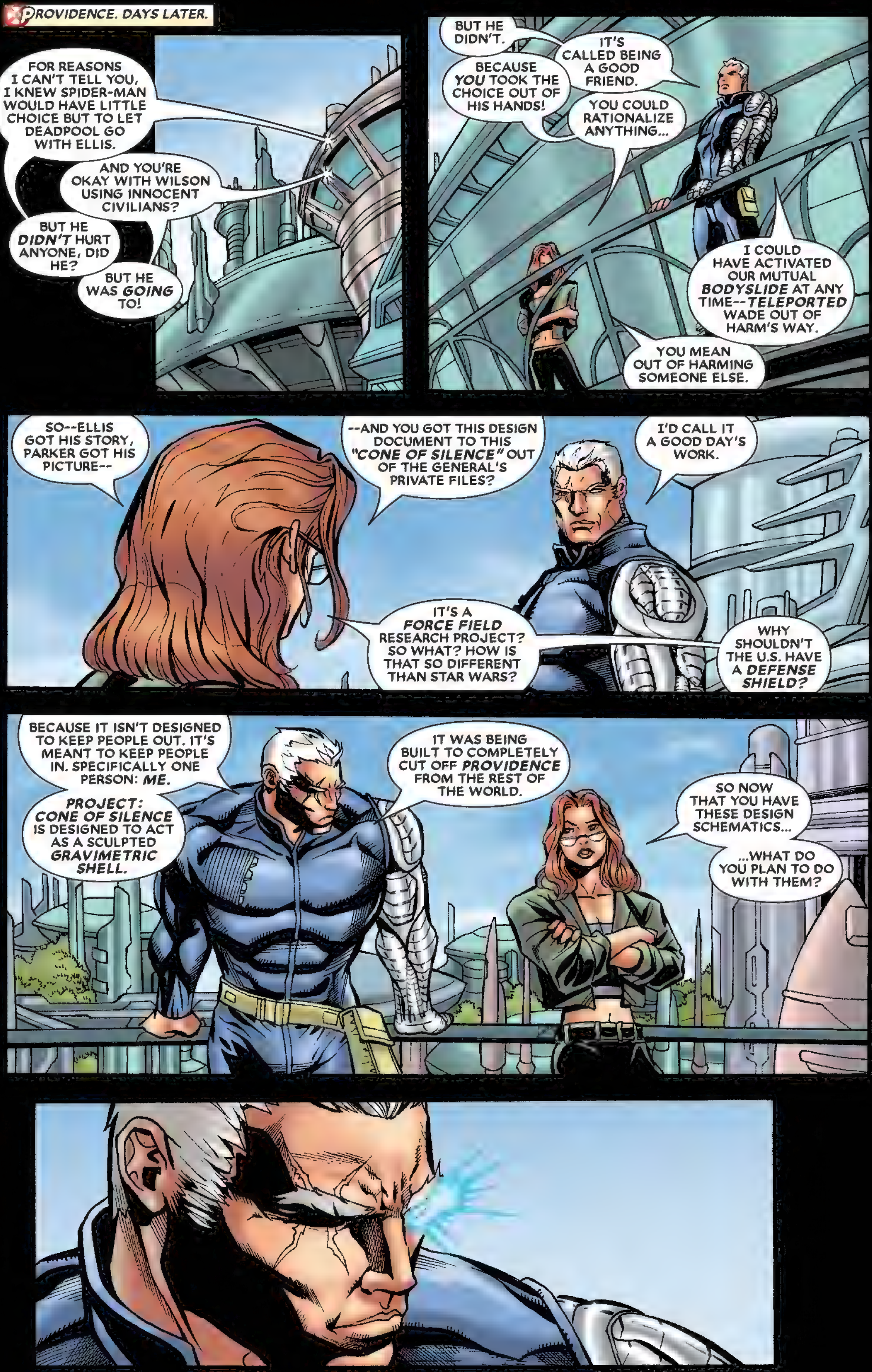
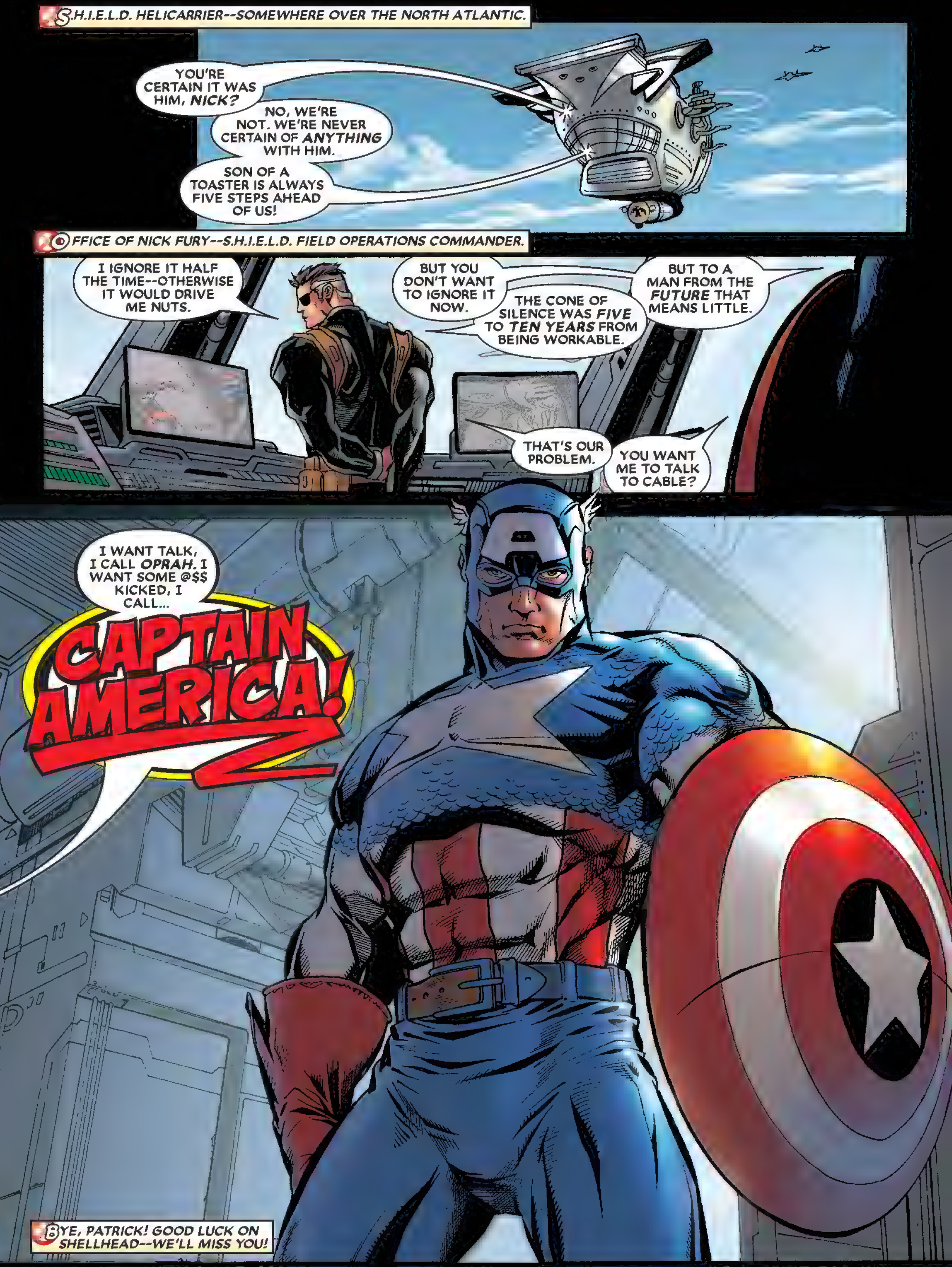
Pentagon Plans Tighter Control

General Charged With Appropriating Homeland Security Funds For Secret Project

By KEN ELLIS

LONG ISLAND — The Pentagon has quietly approved a new


PROVIDENCE. DAYS LATER.
FOR REASONS I CAN'T TELL YOU, I KNEW SPIDER-MAN WOULD HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO LET DEADPOOL GO WITH ELLIS.
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH WILSON USING INNOCENT CIVILIANS?
BUT HE *DIDN'T* HURT ANYONE, DID HE?
BUT HE WAS *GOING* TO!
BUT HE DIDN'T.
IT'S CALLED BEING A GOOD FRIEND.
BECAUSE *YOU* TOOK THE CHOICE OUT OF HIS HANDS!
YOU COULD RATIONALIZE ANYTHING...
I COULD HAVE ACTIVATED OUR MUTUAL *BODYSLIDE* AT ANY TIME--*TELEPORTED* WADE OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
YOU MEAN OUT OF HARMING SOMEONE ELSE.
SO--ELLIS GOT HIS STORY, PARKER GOT HIS PICTURE--
--AND YOU GOT THIS DESIGN DOCUMENT TO THIS *"CONE OF SILENCE"* OUT OF THE GENERAL'S PRIVATE FILES?
I'D CALL IT A GOOD DAY'S WORK.
IT'S A *FORCE FIELD* RESEARCH PROJECT? SO WHAT? HOW IS THAT SO DIFFERENT THAN STAR WARS?
WHY SHOULDN'T THE U.S. HAVE A *DEFENSE SHIELD?*
BECAUSE IT ISN'T DESIGNED TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT. IT'S MEANT TO KEEP PEOPLE IN. SPECIFICALLY ONE PERSON: *ME.*
PROJECT: CONE OF SILENCE IS DESIGNED TO ACT AS A SCULPTED *GRAVIMETRIC SHELL.*
IT WAS BEING BUILT TO COMPLETELY CUT OFF *PROVIDENCE* FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
SO NOW THAT YOU HAVE THESE DESIGN SCHEMATICS...
...WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM?


S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER--SOMEWHERE OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC.
YOU'RE CERTAIN IT WAS HIM, *NICK?*
NO, WE'RE NOT. WE'RE NEVER CERTAIN OF *ANYTHING* WITH HIM.
SON OF A TOASTER IS ALWAYS FIVE STEPS AHEAD OF US!
OFFICE OF NICK FURY--S.H.I.E.L.D. FIELD OPERATIONS COMMANDER.
I IGNORE IT HALF THE TIME--OTHERWISE IT WOULD DRIVE ME NUTS.
BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO IGNORE IT NOW.
THE CONE OF SILENCE WAS *FIVE* TO *TEN YEARS* FROM BEING WORKABLE.
BUT TO A MAN FROM THE *FUTURE* THAT MEANS LITTLE.
THAT'S OUR PROBLEM.
YOU WANT ME TO TALK TO CABLE?
I WANT TALK, I CALL *OPRAH*. I WANT SOME @$$ KICKED, I CALL...
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
BYE, PATRICK! GOOD LUCK ON SHELLHEAD--WE'LL MISS YOU!

DEAR DEADPOOL

Dear Deadpool (we both know that you're never going to let Cable answer the letters and a good thing, too, say I):

Ha! Black Mamba didn't even come close to guessing my greatest fantasy. I already have a copy of "Giant-Size X-Men" #1, though not CCG, which is not surprising because I got it when it came out and I read it quite a few times. (Sorry, gentleman who asked for my phone number, but I'm probably old enough to be your mother.)

As for Black Mamba's comment that the B.A.D. Girls are looking mighty fine... I'll take her word for it, although I hope they won't need to sit down on any leather or vinyl that's had the sun shining on it.

Ms. Wiley says you have pretty much only one *guy* as a reader??? I know you didn't fake my letter that you printed and I'm very recognizably female. My (unaltered) birth certificate even says I'm a girl. Should I feel insulted?

Isn't Mr. Nicieza's surname pronounced "Nee (nigh?) see a-rhymes-with-hay zah"? #18 was a fun issue and I look forward to seeing you buy that suntan oil and WD-40.

Ann Nichols, Sierra Vista, AZ

Nee, not nigh. Good job, Ann. Oh, and by the way, sweetheart, if you read your GSX-Men #1 way back when it originally came out, *it can't be CCG*! You gotta get it directly off the printing press before it's been touched by human hands, using tongs to do so, then dip it into Formica, seal it with eleven inches of clear vinyl heated to 400 degrees then cooled in forty degree reductions no faster than every thirty-six minutes, entomb it under fourteen feet of tungsten and concrete and cry like a baby every single day from the sheer joy of owning something you've never even touched. Then *Wizard* will love you.

Dear Deadpool,

Huzzah, questions:

1) Who would you choose to represent yourself in a movie/or guest appearance on a new Marvel show? ('Pool shootin' up the place, singing about chimichangas and having Cable question his sanity would make great weekly TV. I'm sure www.mercwithamouth.com would agree.)

2) Will you ever meet Spider-Man face to face?

3) When fighting Wolverine, does he smell of beer and Canadian bacon?

4) Will we ever see a rematch between you and Captain America for the little contest during the Mithras saga?

5) Will we ever see Death again?(Everyone's favorite hot skeleton-faced babe! 'nuff said)

I hope my letter gets published, that'd be really awesome. This is an excellent comic and I hope it lasts long into the next millennium. Keep up the great stuff Until Weapon X invades a zoo and makes Howard the Duck X, make mine Marvel!

Your whack-a-doodle Canadian fan,
David Dixon, Ontario, Canada

Ooooh, numbered questions!

1) I don't think the actor exists who could portray my emotional depth and still be able to wear yellow panties while kicking the crap out of everyone who gets in his way. Maybe that kid from "Who's The Boss."

Lame way to plug your web-site, too, David.

2) I will never, ever, EVER stoop so low as to have Spider-Man guest-star in this book with his doey Tobey eyes and soft lispy voice and tight, small gymnast's body... never! I don't care if it increases sales! I don't care if it serves to more fully ground us in the Marvel Universe mainstream (as if including Prester John didn't serve that purpose)! I say never.

3) Worse, he smells of bacon, beer and Canada. Oooh, that's gonna get me in trouble with someone...

4) No way am I fighting the symbol of all that is good and holy in this great country of ours. Unless it increases sales.

5) You can see her every week on the O.C. That crazy Mischa stick...

Dear Deadpool (and, of course, Cable),

First things first: Thanks for the Nate "X-Man" Grey homage on the cover of #19. Does this mean that you guys miss him as much as we do? Any chance he'll be back sometime?

Okay, now for the issue's actual contents. Man! I can always hold this book up to a gold standard, but #19 was even better than usual! Getting this bit of insight into each of the title characters' histories was great, and it really showcased Mr. Nicieza's ability to write not only comedy, drama, and action, but also to use them appropriately, and for maximum impact. I'm glad that Nate and Wade are slowly becoming friends - it feels natural that it would take them this long - and I expect that future issues will continue to explore this.

On one last note (and this actually applies to the previous story arc), please do whatever you can to keep Fabian writing Cannonball! (Whether in guest appearances in this book, or, I don't know, a starring role in another book...) Sam's recent appearances in *C&DP* have been the best-written appearances of the character I've seen in a long time.

Thanks for the consistent high quality. I'd tell you to keep up the good work, but I don't think you guys could do anything less.

Andy Holman, Philadelphia, PA

I gotta say, Andy, outside of livin' in Philly, you pretty much make an A+ *CDP* fan. Now if we could only do something about that whole Philly thing.

Me an' Nate are slowly becoming friends, which is cool, but we do have to take it slow, `cause neither one of us is used to the emotional uncertainty that comes from an intimate relationship between two heterosexual males. Uhm... did I just type that...?

As for Cannonballs, the hick's a good stick and I'd love to see him around more often. The problem with having him in the book is that it would actually require Nicieza to write him, and Fabe is only allowed to write Sammy-boy on very rare occasions and with a doctor's note...

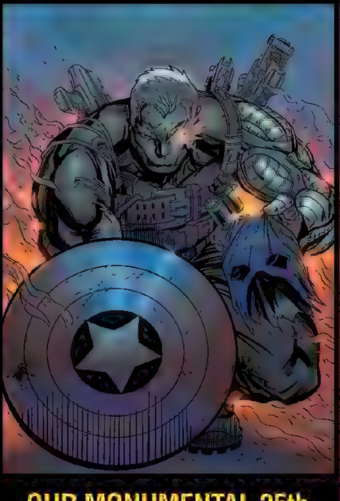
Wassup, 'Pool, you sexy mound of man-meat!!! A few months ago you said you wanted more females to write you, so guess what? I went and had an operation for you, cost me a few grand, but maybe now I'll get my letter printed. My new rack rocks, baby, and now we can be together, forever.

Love, B.J. (I'm a girl) Boyles

Uhm... Nicole... so many things I WANT to say... so little faith Marvel will allow me to...

Her name is B.J. She *says* she's a girl. I *wanna* believe her...

NEXT ISSUE:



OUR MONUMENTAL 25th ISSUE FEATURES CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND WELCOMES PENCILER LAN MEDINA!

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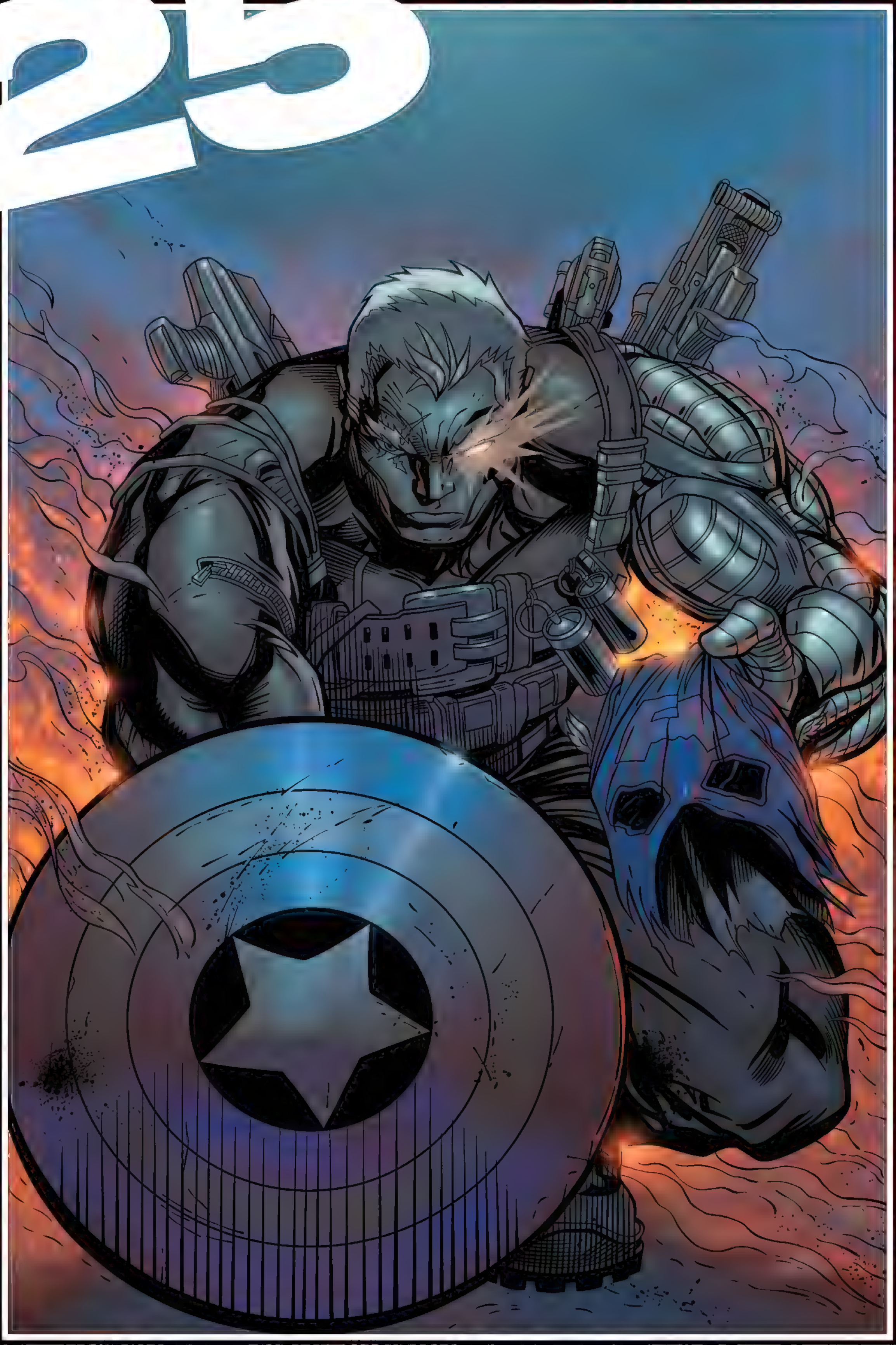
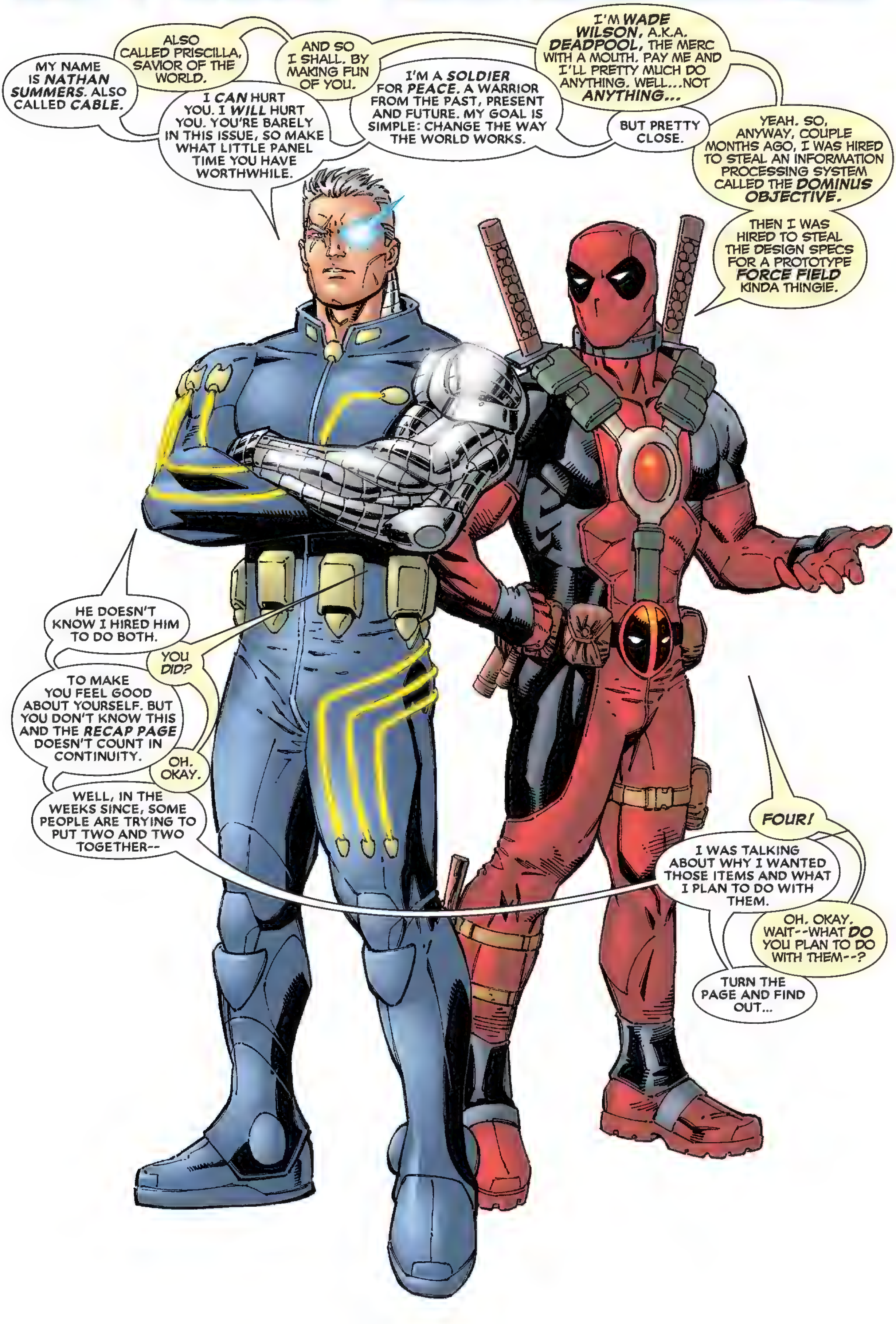
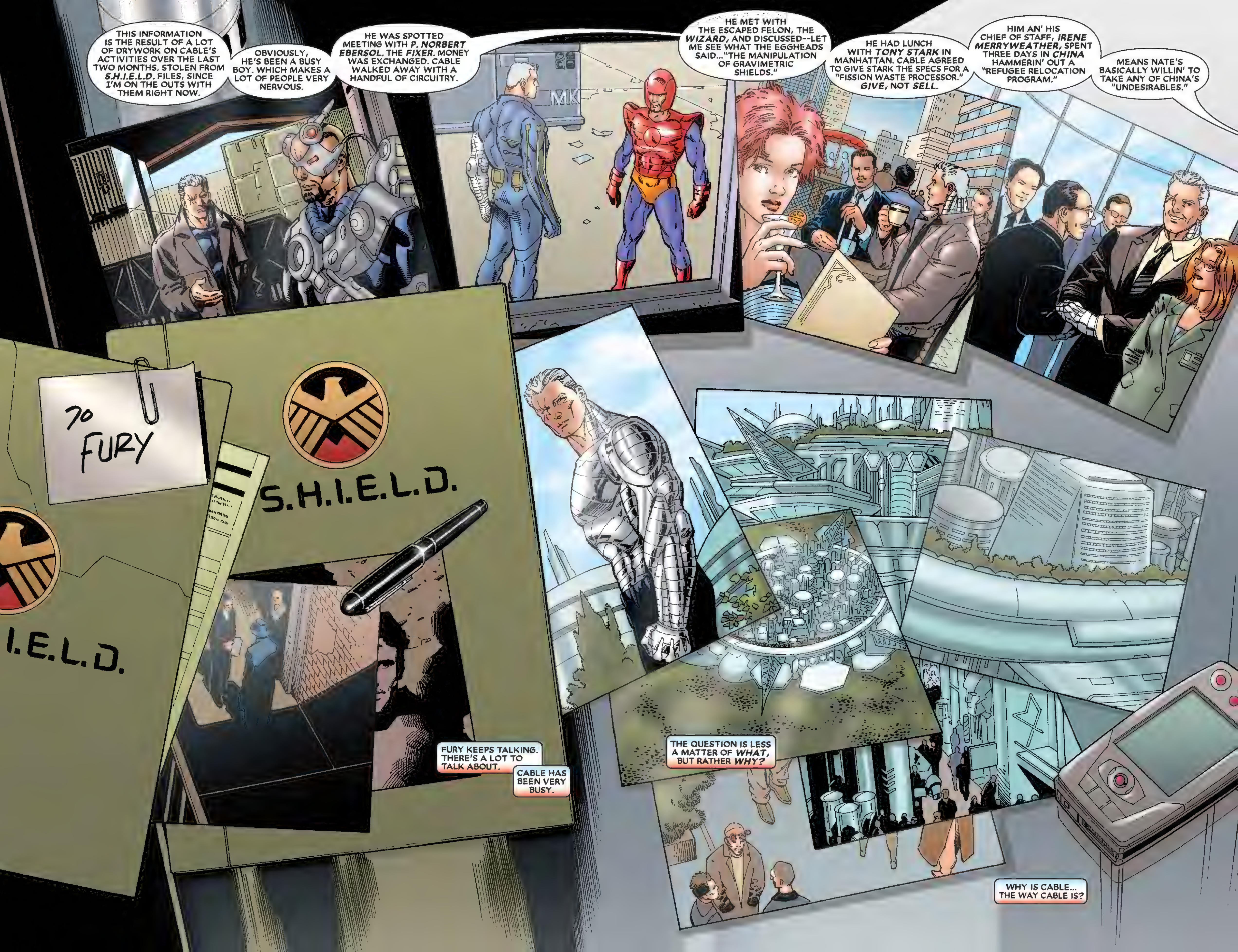
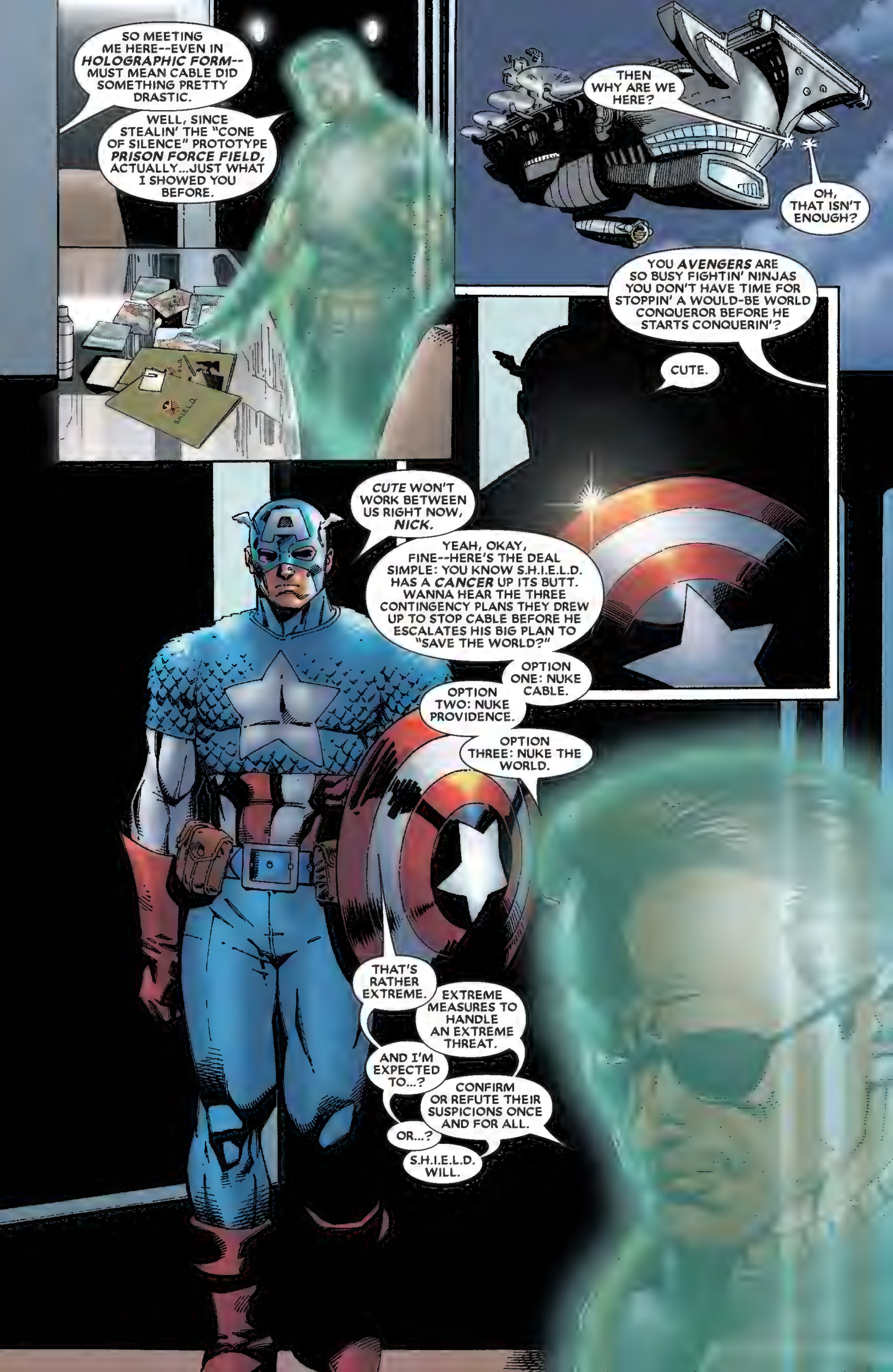
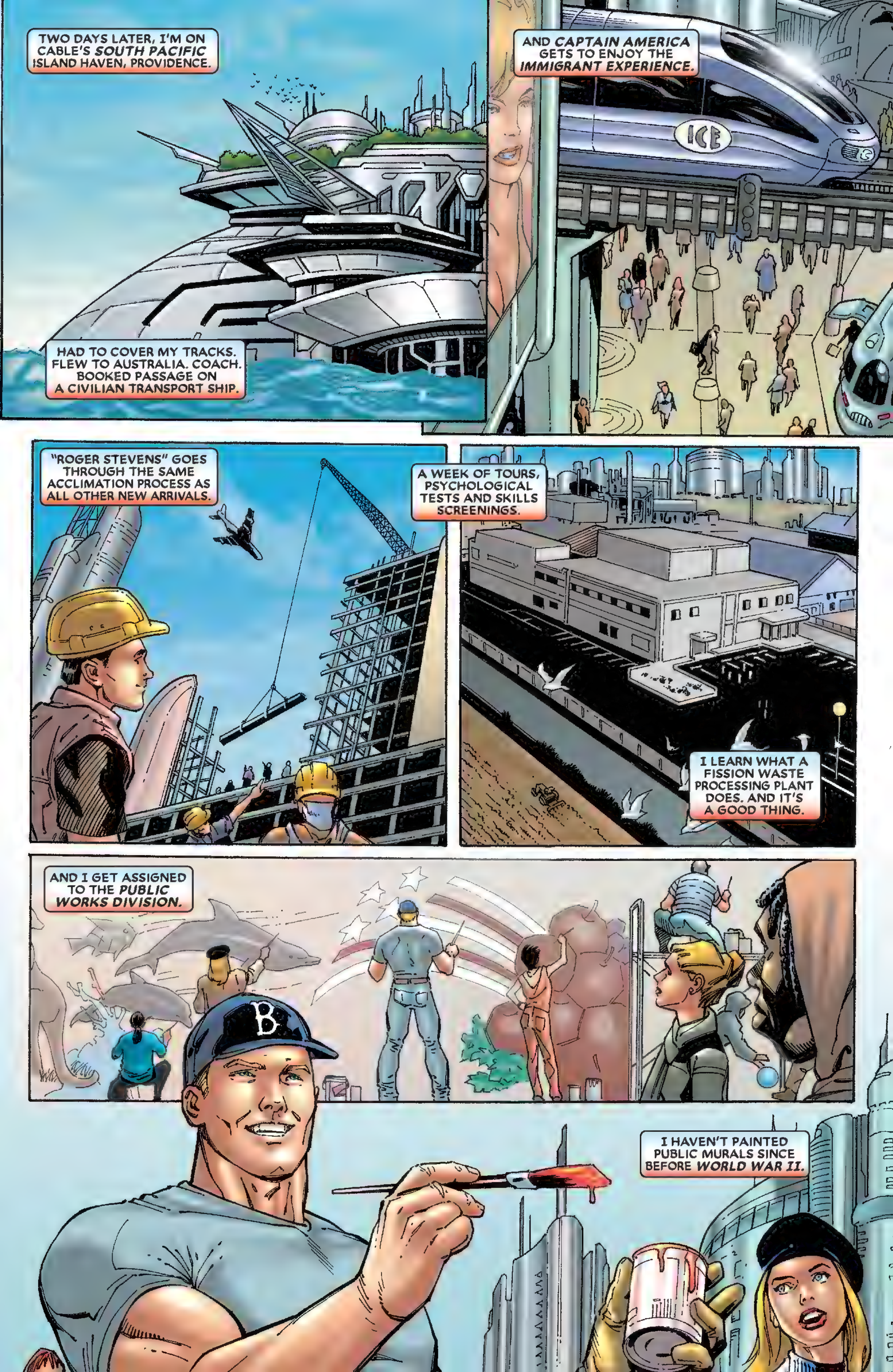


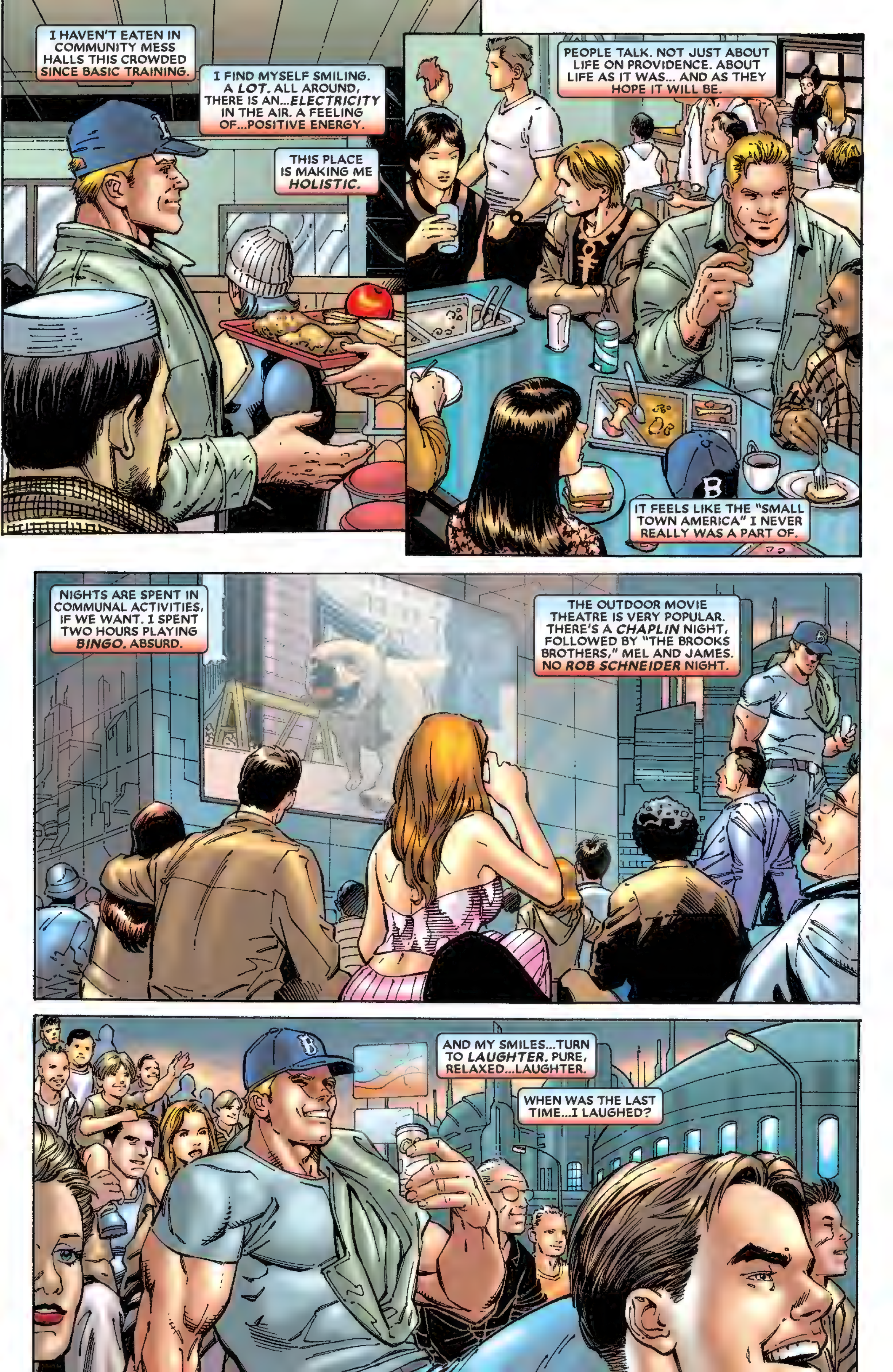
LIVING LEGENDS

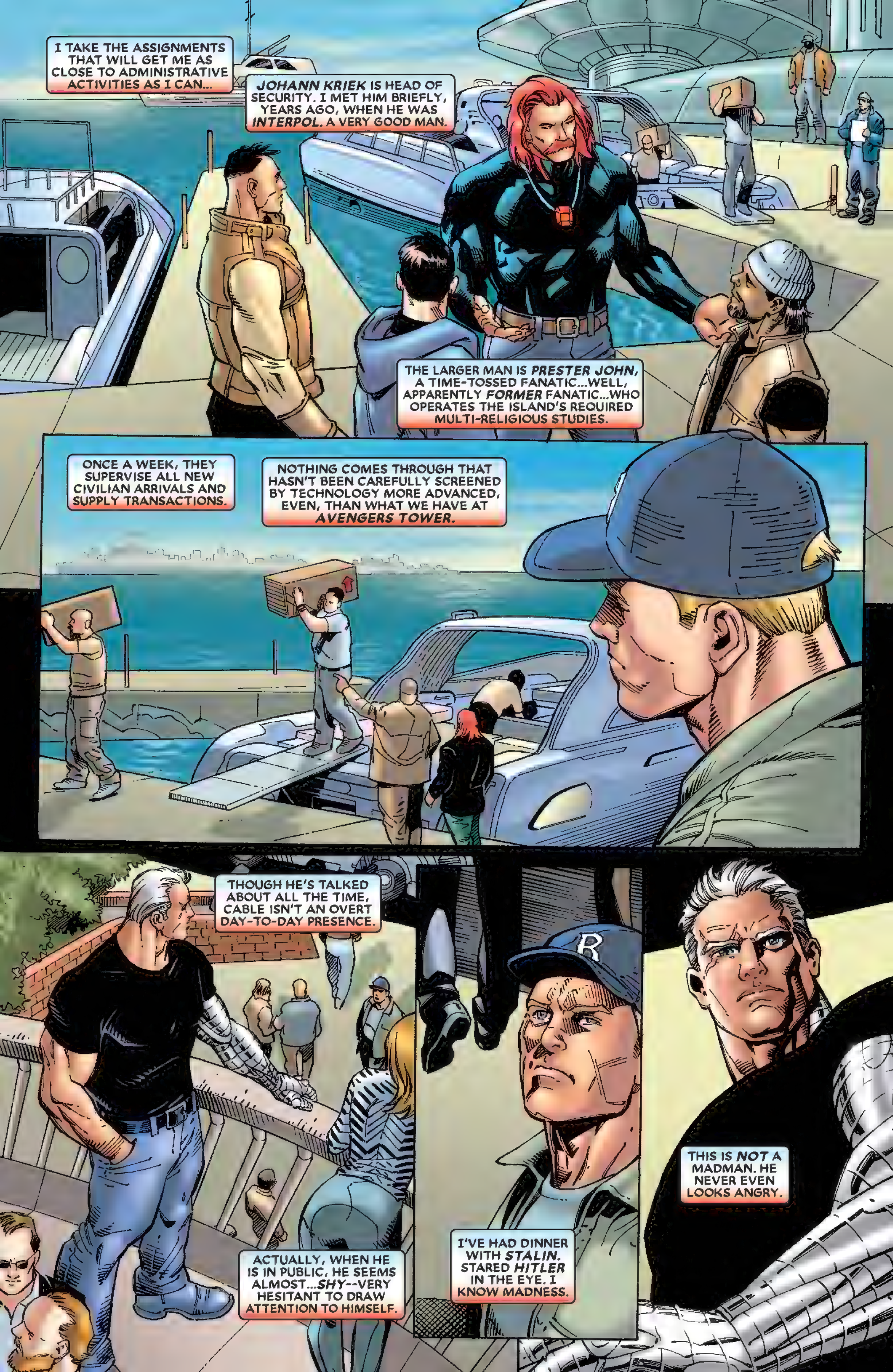

MY NAME IS **NATHAN SUMMERS**. ALSO CALLED **CABLE**.
ALSO CALLED PRISCILLA, SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.
I **CAN** HURT YOU. I **WILL** HURT YOU. YOU'RE BARELY IN THIS ISSUE, SO MAKE WHAT LITTLE PANEL TIME YOU HAVE WORTHWHILE.
AND SO I SHALL. BY MAKING FUN OF YOU.
I'M A **SOLDIER** FOR **PEACE**. A WARRIOR FROM THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. MY GOAL IS SIMPLE: CHANGE THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS.
I'M **WADE WILSON**, A.K.A. **DEADPOOL**, THE MERC WITH A MOUTH. PAY ME AND I'LL PRETTY MUCH DO ANYTHING. WELL...NOT **ANYTHING...**
BUT PRETTY CLOSE.
YEAH. SO, ANYWAY, COUPLE MONTHS AGO, I WAS HIRED TO STEAL AN INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM CALLED THE **DOMINUS OBJECTIVE**.
THEN I WAS HIRED TO STEAL THE DESIGN SPECS FOR A PROTOTYPE **FORCE FIELD** KINDA THINGIE.
HE DOESN'T KNOW I HIRED HIM TO DO BOTH.
YOU *DID?*
TO MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THIS AND THE **RECAP PAGE** DOESN'T COUNT IN CONTINUITY.
OH. OKAY.
WELL, IN THE WEEKS SINCE, SOME PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER--
FOUR!
I WAS TALKING ABOUT WHY I WANTED THOSE ITEMS AND WHAT I PLAN TO DO WITH THEM.
OH. OKAY. WAIT--WHAT **DO** YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM--?
TURN THE PAGE AND FIND OUT...

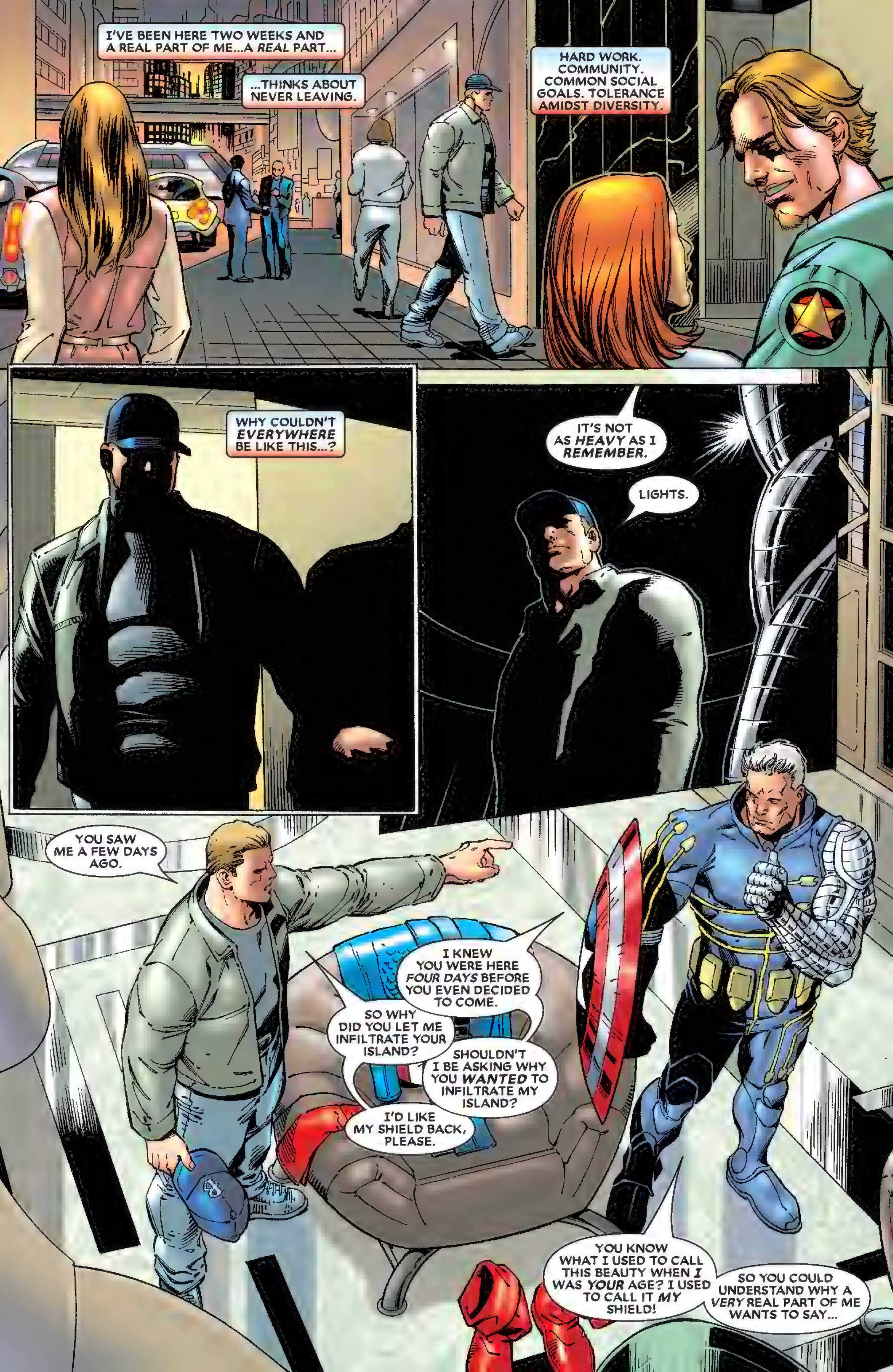

THIS INFORMATION IS THE RESULT OF A LOT OF DRYWORK ON CABLE'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS. STOLEN FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES, SINCE I'M ON THE OUTS WITH THEM RIGHT NOW.
OBVIOUSLY, HE'S BEEN A BUSY BOY. WHICH MAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE VERY NERVOUS.
HE WAS SPOTTED MEETING WITH *P. NORBERT EBERSOL.* THE *FIXER.* MONEY WAS EXCHANGED. CABLE WALKED AWAY WITH A HANDFUL OF CIRCUITRY.
HE MET WITH THE ESCAPED FELON, THE *WIZARD,* AND DISCUSSED--LET ME SEE WHAT THE EGGHEADS SAID..."THE MANIPULATION OF GRAVIMETRIC SHIELDS."
HE HAD LUNCH WITH *TONY STARK* IN MANHATTAN. CABLE AGREED TO GIVE STARK THE SPECS FOR A "FISSION WASTE PROCESSOR." *GIVE,* NOT *SELL.*
HIM AN' HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, *IRENE MERRYWEATHER,* SPENT THREE DAYS IN *CHINA* HAMMERIN' OUT A "REFUGEE RELOCATION PROGRAM."
MEANS NATE'S BASICALLY WILLIN' TO TAKE ANY OF CHINA'S "UNDESIRABLES."
MK
TO FURY
S.H.I.E.L.D.
S.H.I.E.L.D.
FURY KEEPS TALKING. THERE'S A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
CABLE HAS BEEN VERY BUSY.
THE QUESTION IS LESS A MATTER OF *WHAT,* BUT RATHER *WHY?*
WHY IS CABLE... THE WAY CABLE IS?

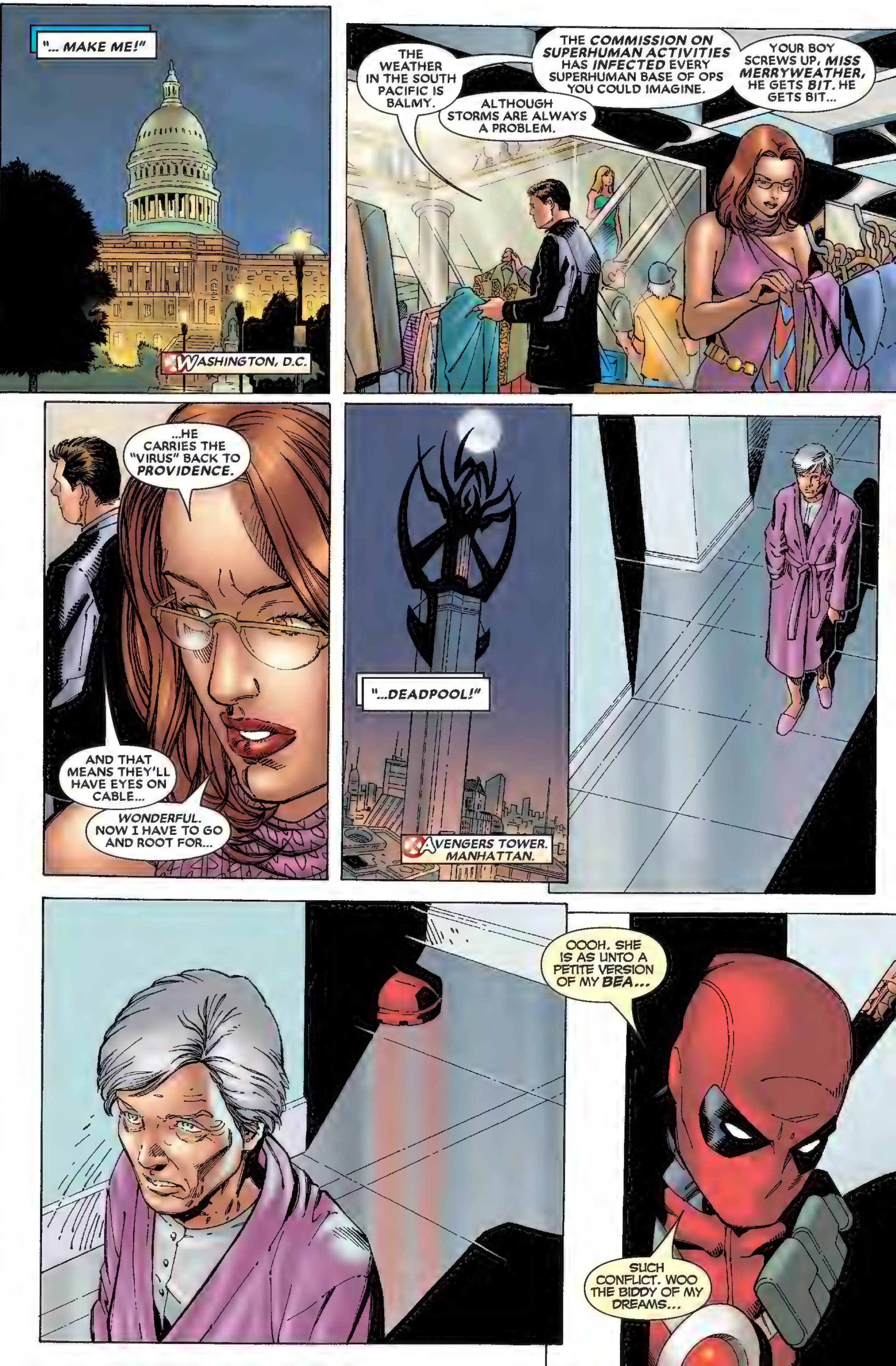

SO MEETING ME HERE--EVEN IN *HOLOGRAPHIC FORM*--MUST MEAN CABLE DID SOMETHING PRETTY DRASTIC.
WELL, SINCE STEALIN' THE "CONE OF SILENCE" PROTOTYPE *PRISON FORCE FIELD,* ACTUALLY...JUST WHAT I SHOWED YOU BEFORE.
S.H.I.E.L.D.
THEN WHY ARE WE HERE?
OH, THAT ISN'T ENOUGH?
YOU *AVENGERS* ARE SO BUSY FIGHTIN' NINJAS YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR STOPPIN' A WOULD-BE WORLD CONQUEROR BEFORE HE STARTS CONQUERIN'?
CUTE.
CUTE WON'T WORK BETWEEN US RIGHT NOW, *NICK.*
YEAH, OKAY, FINE--HERE'S THE DEAL SIMPLE: YOU KNOW S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS A *CANCER* UP ITS BUTT. WANNA HEAR THE THREE CONTINGENCY PLANS THEY DREW UP TO STOP CABLE BEFORE HE ESCALATES HIS BIG PLAN TO "SAVE THE WORLD?"
OPTION ONE: NUKE CABLE.
OPTION TWO: NUKE PROVIDENCE.
OPTION THREE: NUKE THE WORLD.
THAT'S RATHER EXTREME.
EXTREME MEASURES TO HANDLE AN EXTREME THREAT.
AND I'M EXPECTED TO...?
CONFIRM OR REFUTE THEIR SUSPICIONS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
OR...?
S.H.I.E.L.D. WILL.

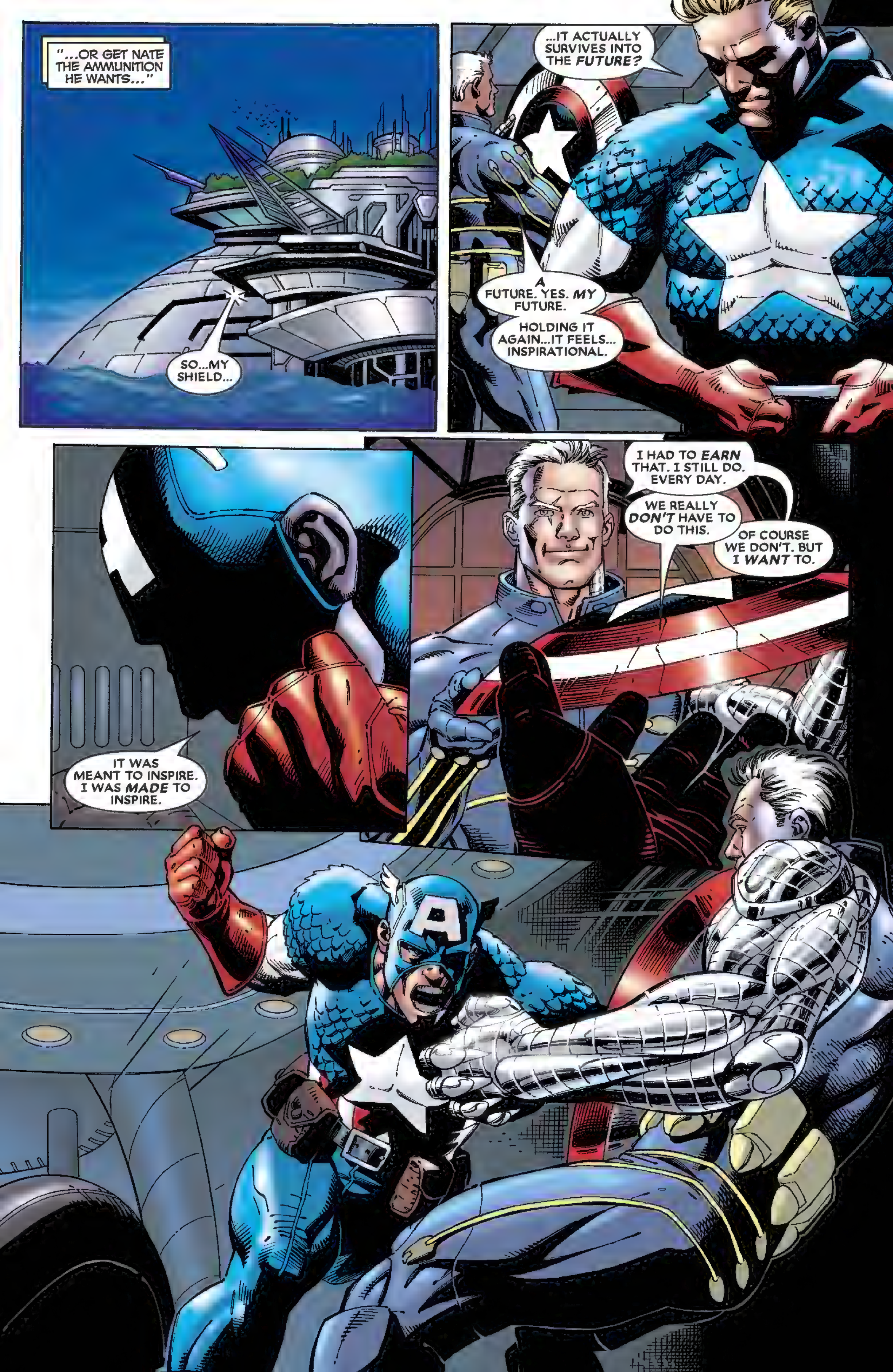

TWO DAYS LATER, I'M ON CABLE'S *SOUTH PACIFIC* ISLAND HAVEN, PROVIDENCE.
HAD TO COVER MY TRACKS. FLEW TO AUSTRALIA. COACH. BOOKED PASSAGE ON A CIVILIAN TRANSPORT SHIP.
AND *CAPTAIN AMERICA* GETS TO ENJOY THE *IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE.*
ICE
"ROGER STEVENS" GOES THROUGH THE SAME ACCLIMATION PROCESS AS ALL OTHER NEW ARRIVALS.
A WEEK OF TOURS, PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS AND SKILLS SCREENINGS.
I LEARN WHAT A FISSION WASTE PROCESSING PLANT DOES. AND IT'S A GOOD THING.
AND I GET ASSIGNED TO THE *PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION.*
B
I HAVEN'T PAINTED PUBLIC MURALS SINCE BEFORE *WORLD WAR II.*

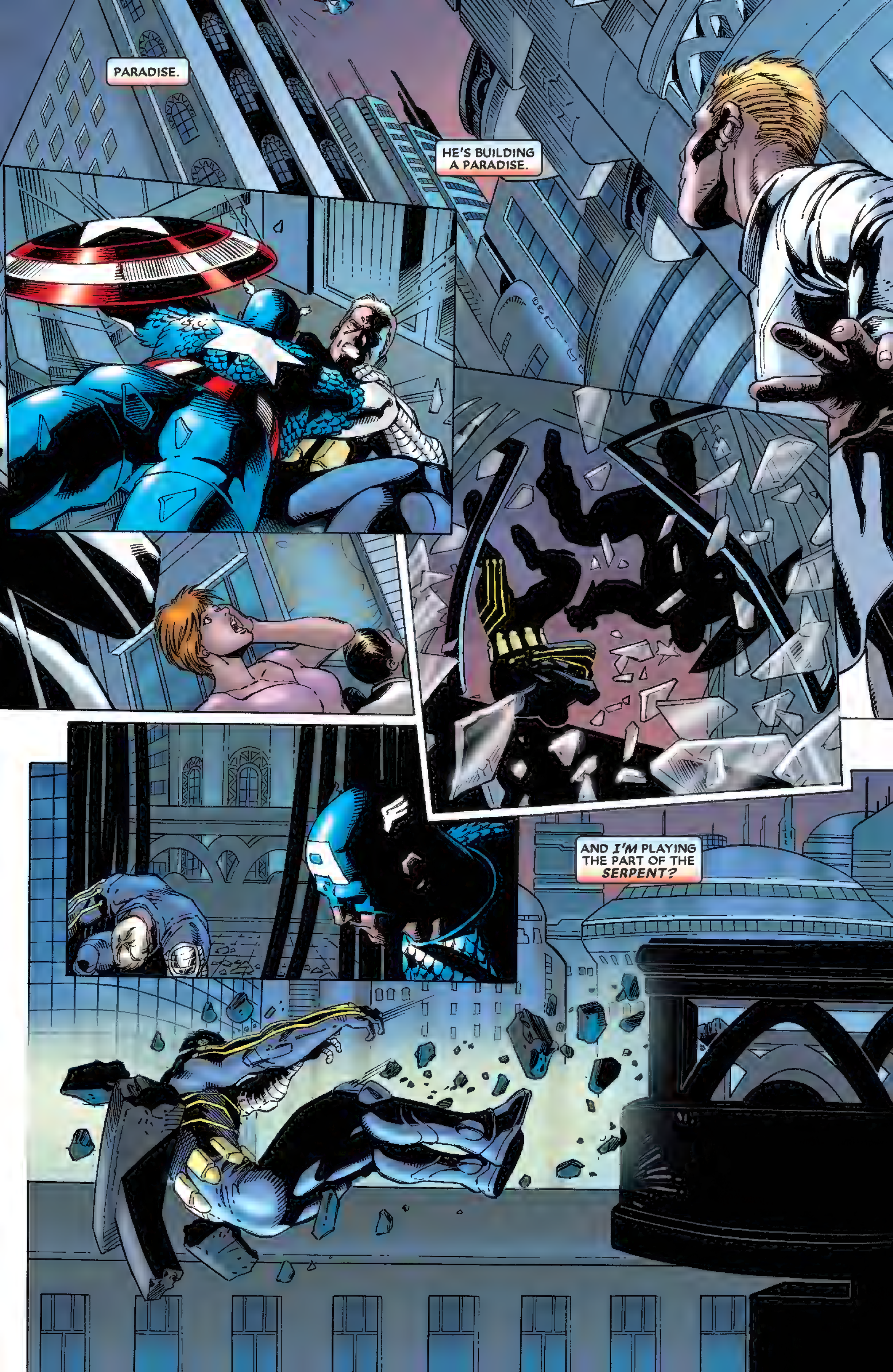

I HAVEN'T EATEN IN COMMUNITY MESS HALLS THIS CROWDED SINCE BASIC TRAINING.
I FIND MYSELF SMILING. A *LOT.* ALL AROUND, THERE IS AN...*ELECTRICITY* IN THE AIR. A FEELING OF...POSITIVE ENERGY.
THIS PLACE IS MAKING ME *HOLISTIC.*
PEOPLE TALK. NOT JUST ABOUT LIFE ON PROVIDENCE. ABOUT LIFE AS IT WAS... AND AS THEY HOPE IT WILL BE.
IT FEELS LIKE THE "SMALL TOWN AMERICA" I NEVER REALLY WAS A PART OF.
NIGHTS ARE SPENT IN COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES, IF WE WANT. I SPENT TWO HOURS PLAYING *BINGO.* ABSURD.
THE OUTDOOR MOVIE THEATRE IS VERY POPULAR. THERE'S A *CHAPLIN* NIGHT, FOLLOWED BY "THE BROOKS BROTHERS," MEL AND JAMES. NO *ROB SCHNEIDER* NIGHT.
AND MY SMILES...TURN TO *LAUGHTER.* PURE, RELAXED...LAUGHTER.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME...I LAUGHED?

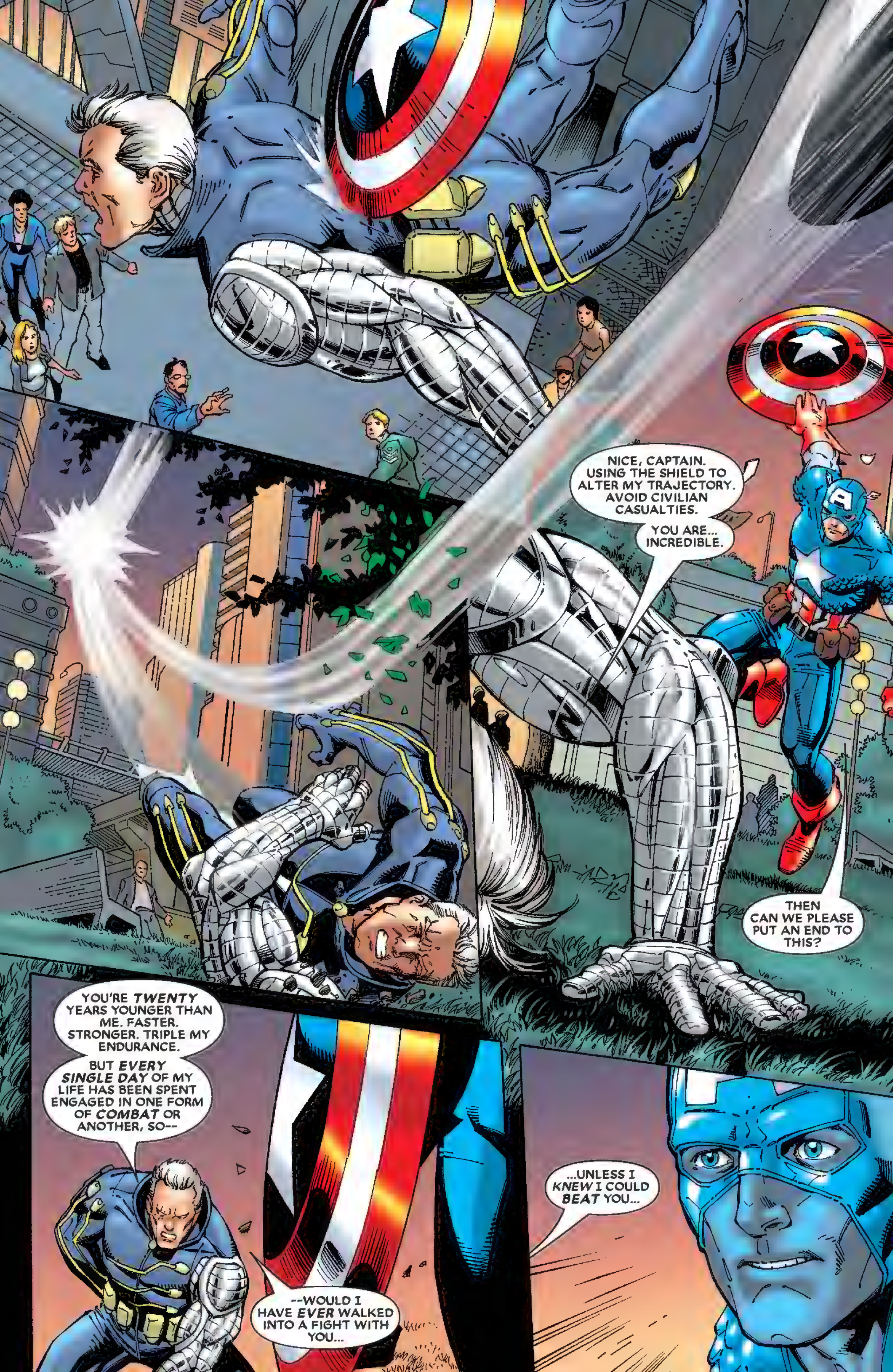

I TAKE THE ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL GET ME AS CLOSE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES AS I CAN...
JOHANN KRIEK IS HEAD OF SECURITY. I MET HIM BRIEFLY, YEARS AGO, WHEN HE WAS INTERPOL. A VERY GOOD MAN.
THE LARGER MAN IS PRESTER JOHN, A TIME-TOSSED FANATIC...WELL, APPARENTLY FORMER FANATIC...WHO OPERATES THE ISLAND'S REQUIRED MULTI-RELIGIOUS STUDIES.
ONCE A WEEK, THEY SUPERVISE ALL NEW CIVILIAN ARRIVALS AND SUPPLY TRANSACTIONS.
NOTHING COMES THROUGH THAT HASN'T BEEN CAREFULLY SCREENED BY TECHNOLOGY MORE ADVANCED, EVEN, THAN WHAT WE HAVE AT AVENGERS TOWER.
THOUGH HE'S TALKED ABOUT ALL THE TIME, CABLE ISN'T AN OVERT DAY-TO-DAY PRESENCE.
ACTUALLY, WHEN HE IS IN PUBLIC, HE SEEMS ALMOST...SHY--VERY HESITANT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HIMSELF.
I'VE HAD DINNER WITH STALIN. STARED HITLER IN THE EYE. I KNOW MADNESS.
THIS IS NOT A MADMAN. HE NEVER EVEN LOOKS ANGRY.

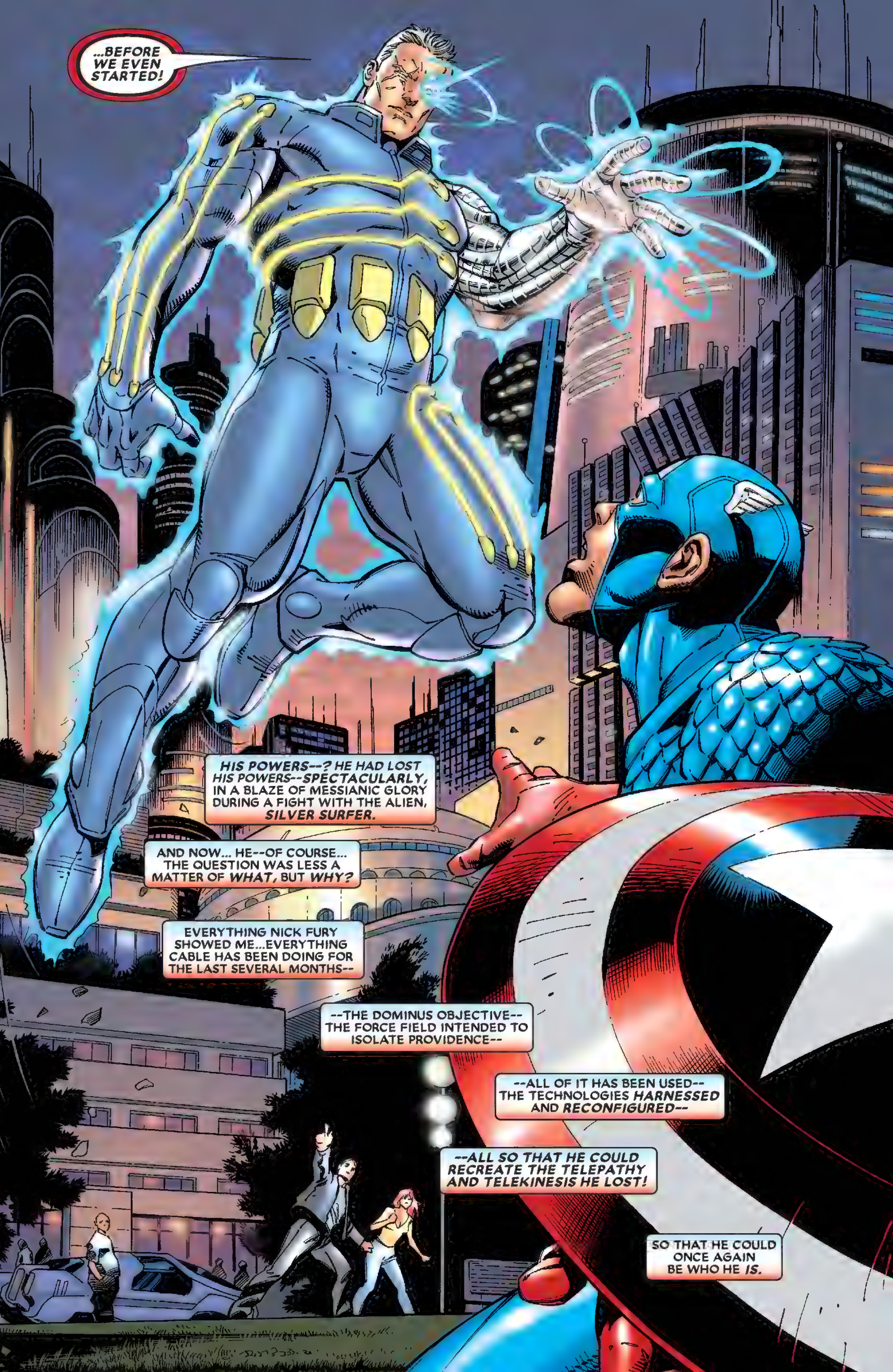

I'VE BEEN HERE TWO WEEKS AND A REAL PART OF ME...A *REAL* PART...
...THINKS ABOUT NEVER LEAVING.
HARD WORK. COMMUNITY. COMMON SOCIAL GOALS. TOLERANCE AMIDST DIVERSITY.
WHY COULDN'T *EVERYWHERE* BE LIKE THIS...?
IT'S NOT AS *HEAVY* AS I *REMEMBER.*
LIGHTS.
YOU SAW ME A FEW DAYS AGO.
I KNEW YOU WERE HERE *FOUR DAYS* BEFORE YOU EVEN DECIDED TO COME.
SO WHY DID YOU LET ME INFILTRATE YOUR ISLAND?
SHOULDN'T I BE ASKING WHY YOU *WANTED* TO INFILTRATE MY ISLAND?
I'D LIKE MY SHIELD BACK, PLEASE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I USED TO CALL THIS BEAUTY WHEN *I* WAS *YOUR* AGE? I USED TO CALL IT *MY* SHIELD!
SO YOU COULD UNDERSTAND WHY A *VERY* REAL PART OF ME WANTS TO SAY...

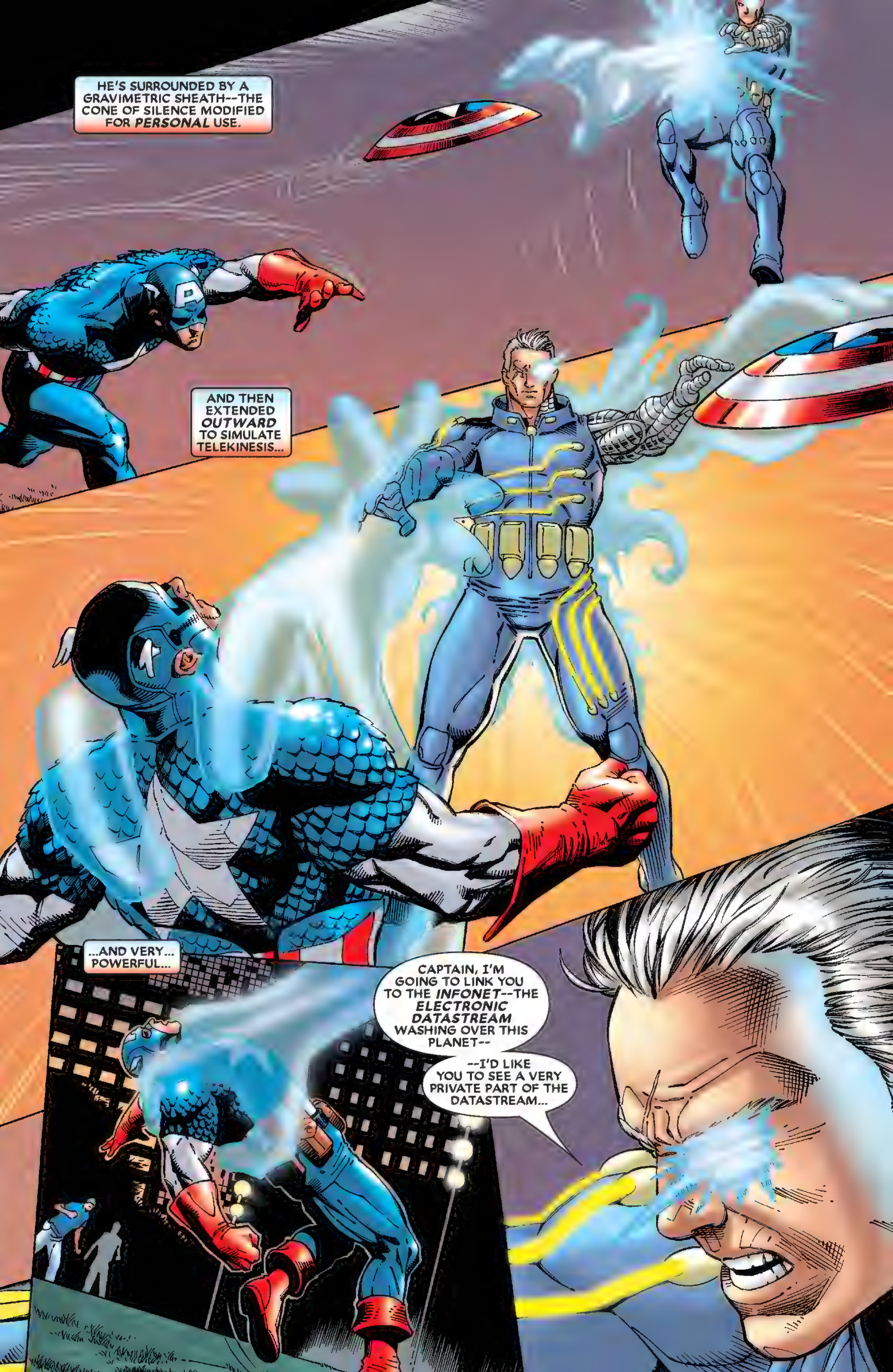

"... MAKE ME!"
WASHINGTON, D.C.
THE WEATHER IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC IS BALMY.
ALTHOUGH STORMS ARE ALWAYS A PROBLEM.
THE COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES HAS INFECTED EVERY SUPERHUMAN BASE OF OPS YOU COULD IMAGINE.
YOUR BOY SCREWS UP, MISS MERRYWEATHER, HE GETS BIT. HE GETS BIT...
...HE CARRIES THE "VIRUS" BACK TO PROVIDENCE.
AND THAT MEANS THEY'LL HAVE EYES ON CABLE...
WONDERFUL. NOW I HAVE TO GO AND ROOT FOR...
"...DEADPOOL!"
AVENGERS TOWER. MANHATTAN.
OOOH. SHE IS AS UNTO A PETITE VERSION OF MY BEA...
SUCH CONFLICT. WOO THE BIDDY OF MY DREAMS...

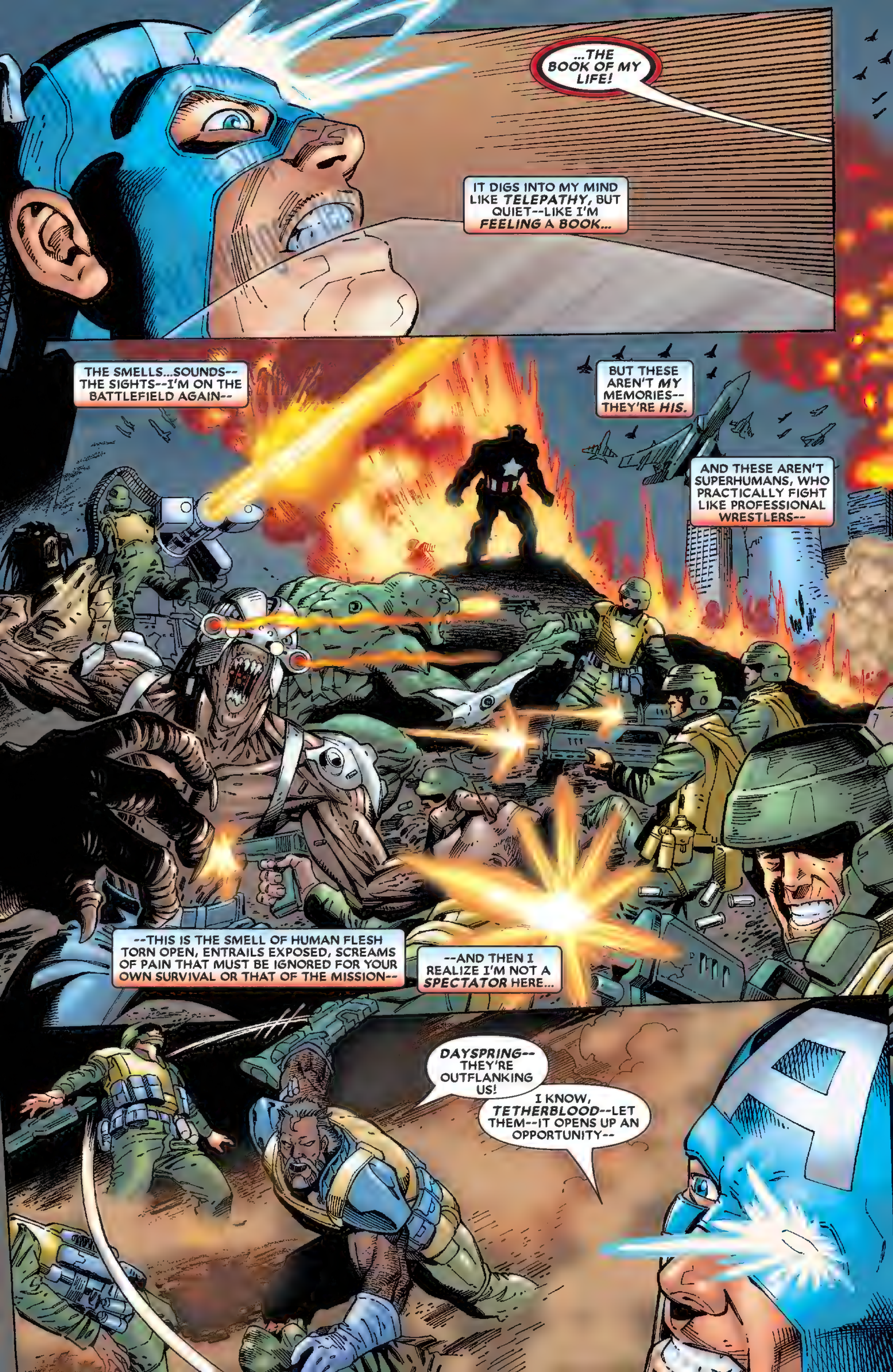

"...OR GET NATE THE AMMUNITION HE WANTS..."
SO...MY SHIELD...
...IT ACTUALLY SURVIVES INTO THE *FUTURE?*
A FUTURE. YES. *MY* FUTURE.
HOLDING IT AGAIN...IT FEELS... INSPIRATIONAL.
IT WAS MEANT TO INSPIRE. I WAS *MADE* TO INSPIRE.
I HAD TO *EARN* THAT. I STILL DO. EVERY DAY.
WE REALLY *DON'T* HAVE TO DO THIS.
OF COURSE WE DON'T. BUT I *WANT* TO.

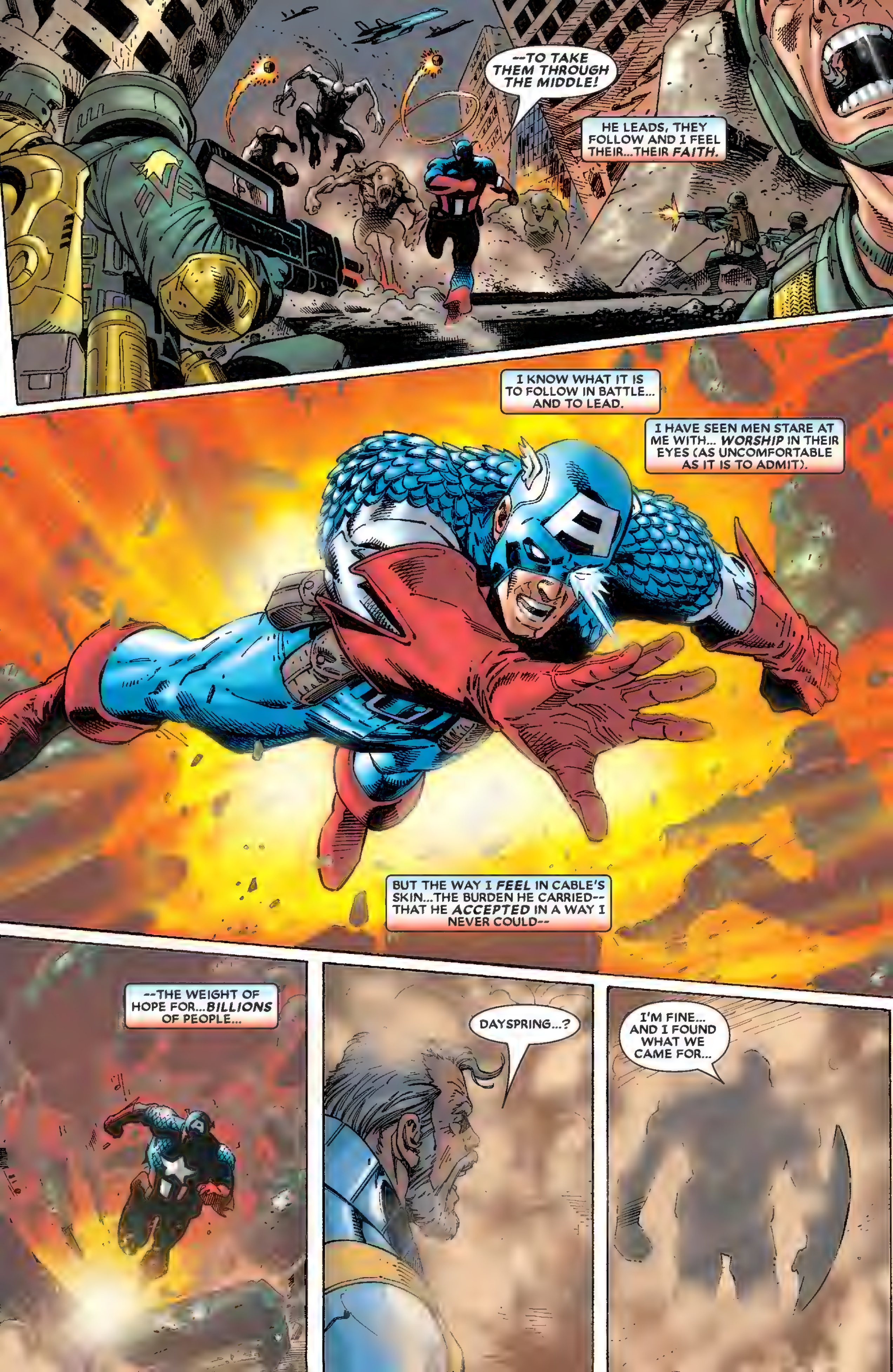

PARADISE.
HE'S BUILDING A PARADISE.
AND *I'M* PLAYING THE PART OF THE *SERPENT?*

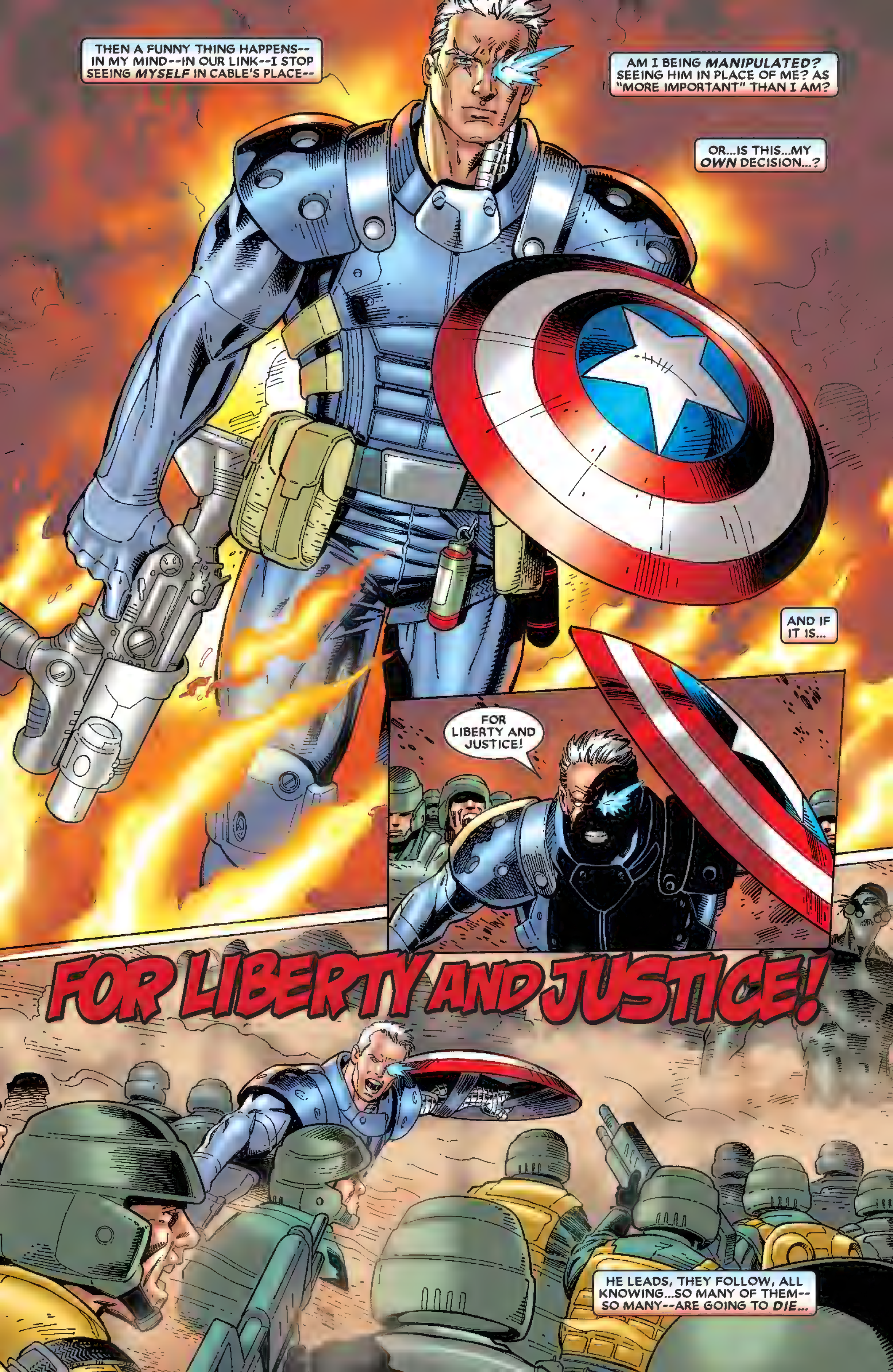

NICE, CAPTAIN. USING THE SHIELD TO ALTER MY TRAJECTORY. AVOID CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.
YOU ARE... INCREDIBLE.
THEN CAN WE PLEASE PUT AN END TO THIS?
YOU'RE *TWENTY* YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME. FASTER. STRONGER. TRIPLE MY ENDURANCE.
BUT *EVERY SINGLE DAY* OF MY LIFE HAS BEEN SPENT ENGAGED IN ONE FORM OF *COMBAT* OR ANOTHER, SO--
--WOULD I HAVE *EVER* WALKED INTO A FIGHT WITH YOU...
...UNLESS I *KNEW* I COULD *BEAT* YOU...

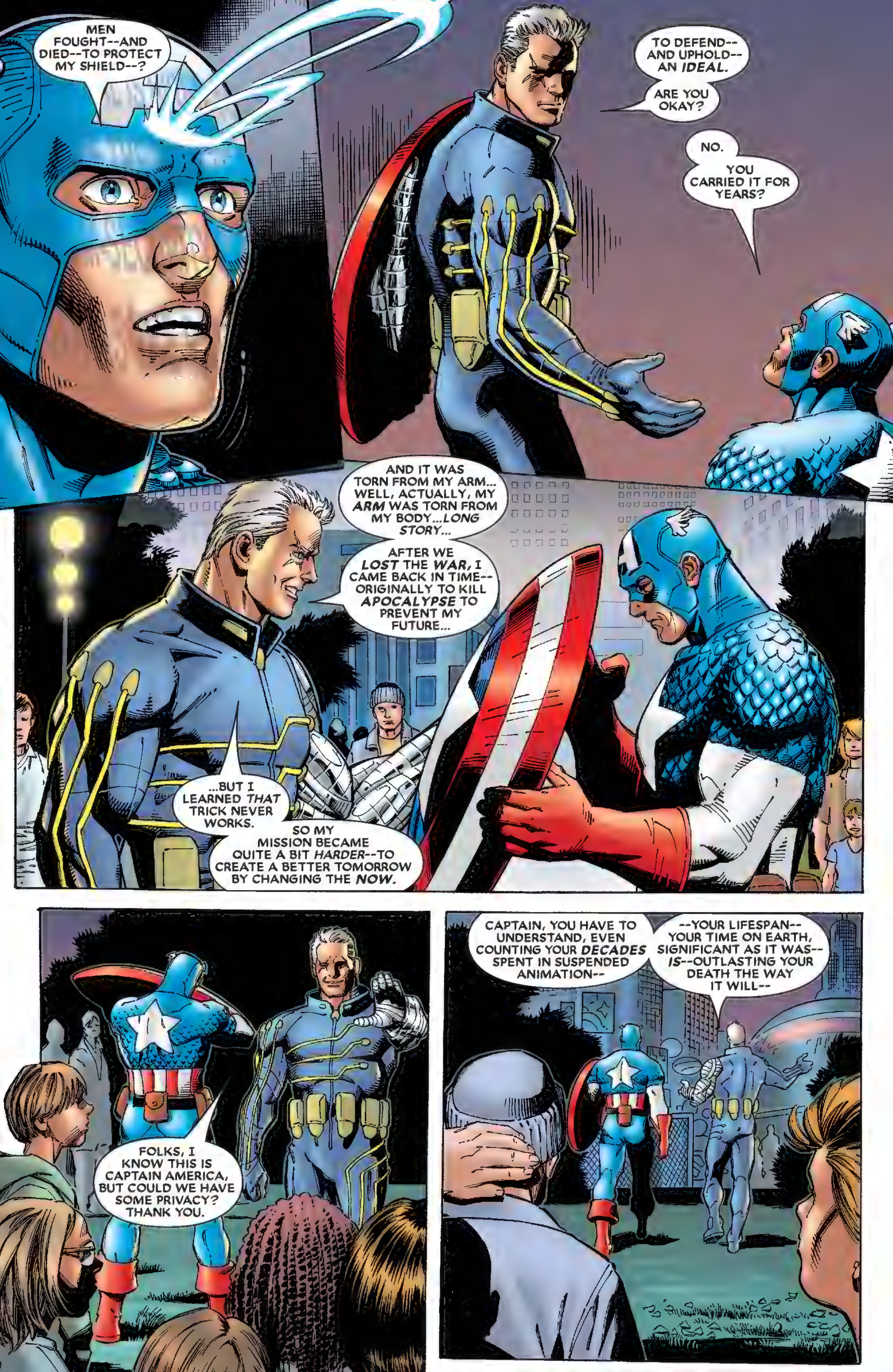

...BEFORE WE EVEN STARTED!
HIS POWERS--? HE HAD LOST *HIS POWERS--SPECTACULARLY,* IN A BLAZE OF MESSIANIC GLORY DURING A FIGHT WITH THE ALIEN, *SILVER SURFER.*
AND NOW... HE--OF COURSE... THE QUESTION WAS LESS A MATTER OF *WHAT,* BUT *WHY?*
EVERYTHING NICK FURY SHOWED ME...EVERYTHING CABLE HAS BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS--
--THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE-- THE FORCE FIELD INTENDED TO ISOLATE PROVIDENCE--
--ALL OF IT HAS BEEN USED-- THE TECHNOLOGIES *HARNESSED* AND *RECONFIGURED--*
--ALL SO THAT HE COULD RECREATE THE TELEPATHY AND TELEKINESIS HE LOST!
SO THAT HE COULD ONCE AGAIN BE WHO HE *IS.*

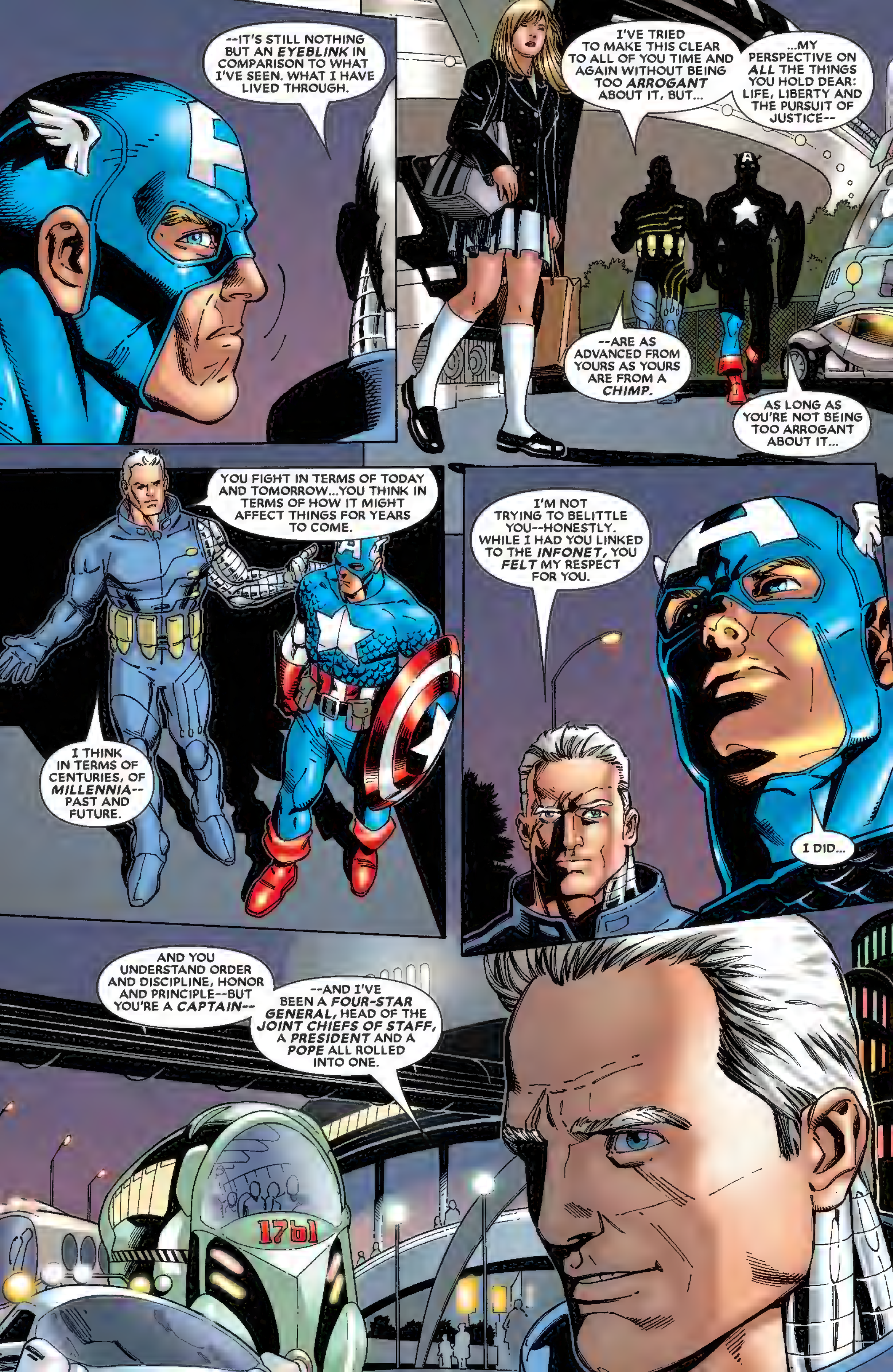

HE'S SURROUNDED BY A GRAVIMETRIC SHEATH--THE CONE OF SILENCE MODIFIED FOR *PERSONAL* USE.
AND THEN EXTENDED *OUTWARD* TO SIMULATE TELEKINESIS...
...AND VERY... POWERFUL...
CAPTAIN, I'M GOING TO LINK YOU TO THE *INFONET*--THE *ELECTRONIC DATASTREAM* WASHING OVER THIS PLANET--
--I'D LIKE YOU TO SEE A VERY PRIVATE PART OF THE DATASTREAM...

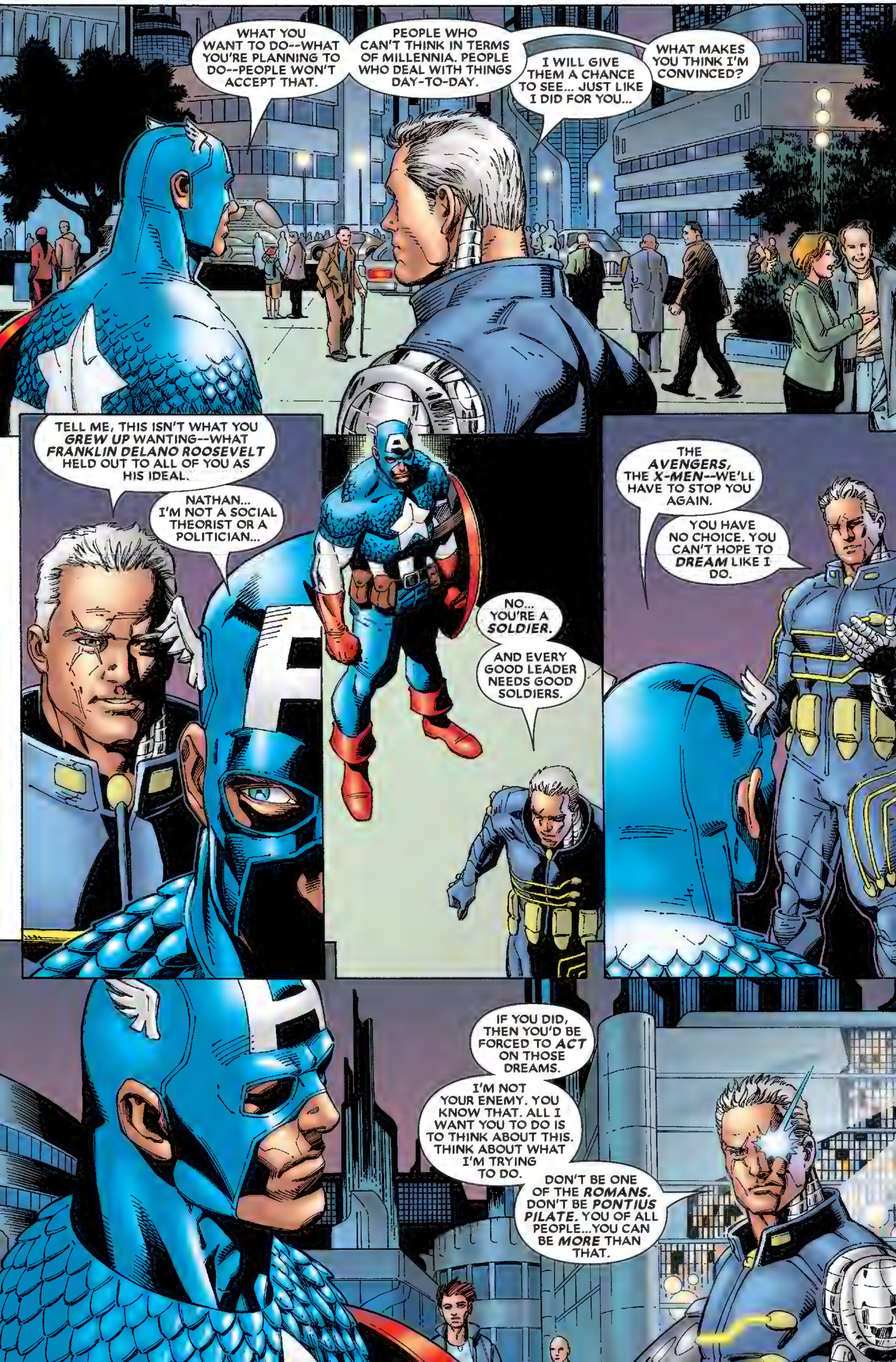

...THE BOOK OF MY LIFE!
IT DIGS INTO MY MIND LIKE *TELEPATHY*, BUT QUIET--LIKE I'M *FEELING* A *BOOK*...
THE SMELLS...SOUNDS--THE SIGHTS--I'M ON THE BATTLEFIELD AGAIN--
BUT THESE AREN'T *MY* MEMORIES--THEY'RE *HIS.*
AND THESE AREN'T SUPERHUMANS, WHO PRACTICALLY FIGHT LIKE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLERS--
--THIS IS THE SMELL OF HUMAN FLESH TORN OPEN, ENTRAILS EXPOSED, SCREAMS OF PAIN THAT MUST BE IGNORED FOR YOUR OWN SURVIVAL OR THAT OF THE MISSION--
--AND THEN I REALIZE I'M NOT A *SPECTATOR* HERE...
DAYSPRING--THEY'RE OUTFLANKING US!
I KNOW, *TETHERBLOOD*--LET THEM--IT OPENS UP AN OPPORTUNITY--

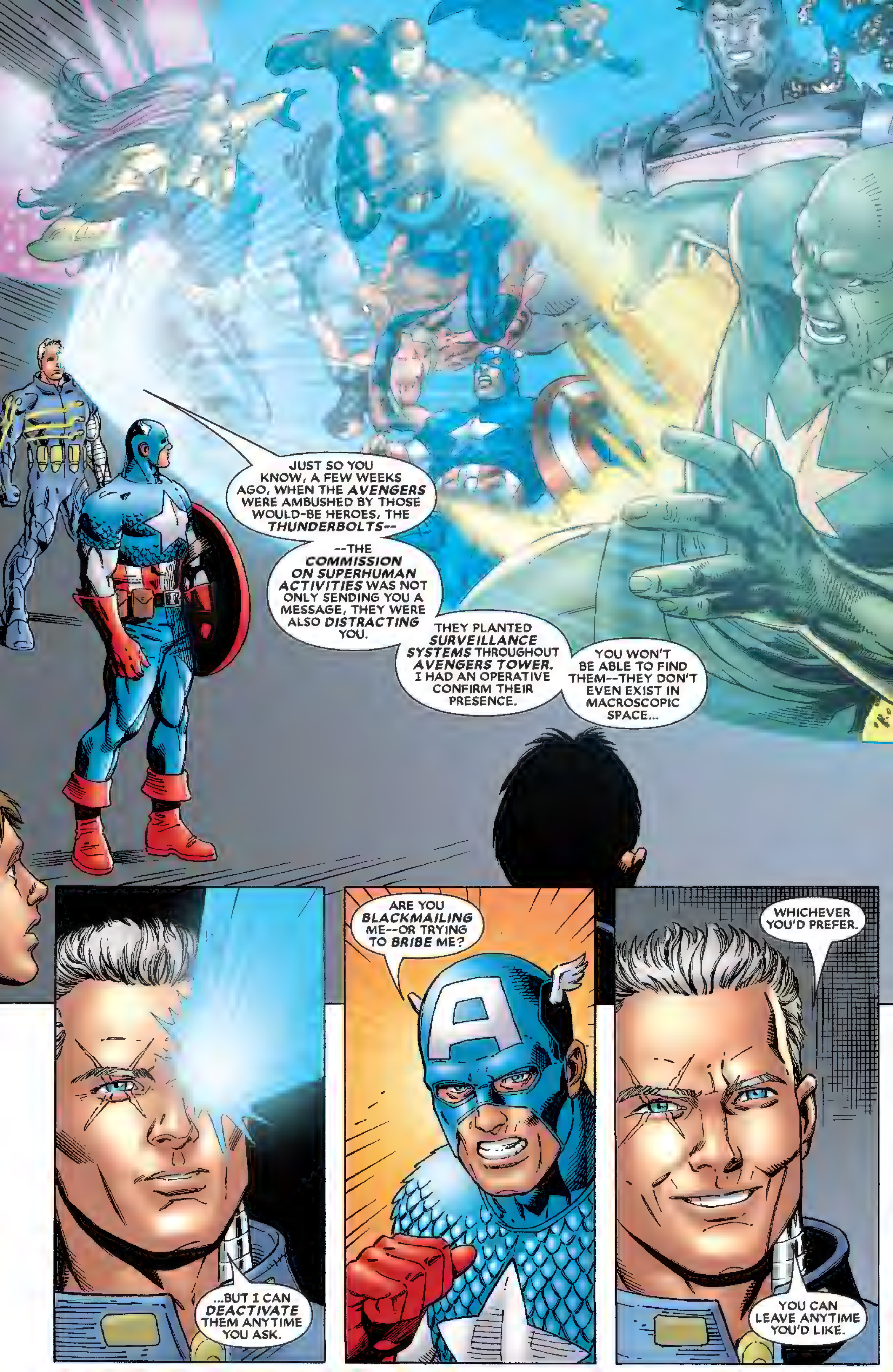

--TO TAKE THEM THROUGH THE MIDDLE!
HE LEADS, THEY FOLLOW AND I FEEL THEIR...THEIR *FAITH*.
I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO FOLLOW IN BATTLE... AND TO LEAD.
I HAVE SEEN MEN STARE AT ME WITH... *WORSHIP* IN THEIR EYES (AS UNCOMFORTABLE AS IT IS TO ADMIT).
BUT THE WAY I *FEEL* IN CABLE'S SKIN...THE BURDEN HE CARRIED-- THAT HE *ACCEPTED* IN A WAY I NEVER COULD--
--THE WEIGHT OF HOPE FOR...*BILLIONS* OF PEOPLE...
DAYSPRING...?
I'M FINE... AND I FOUND WHAT WE CAME FOR...

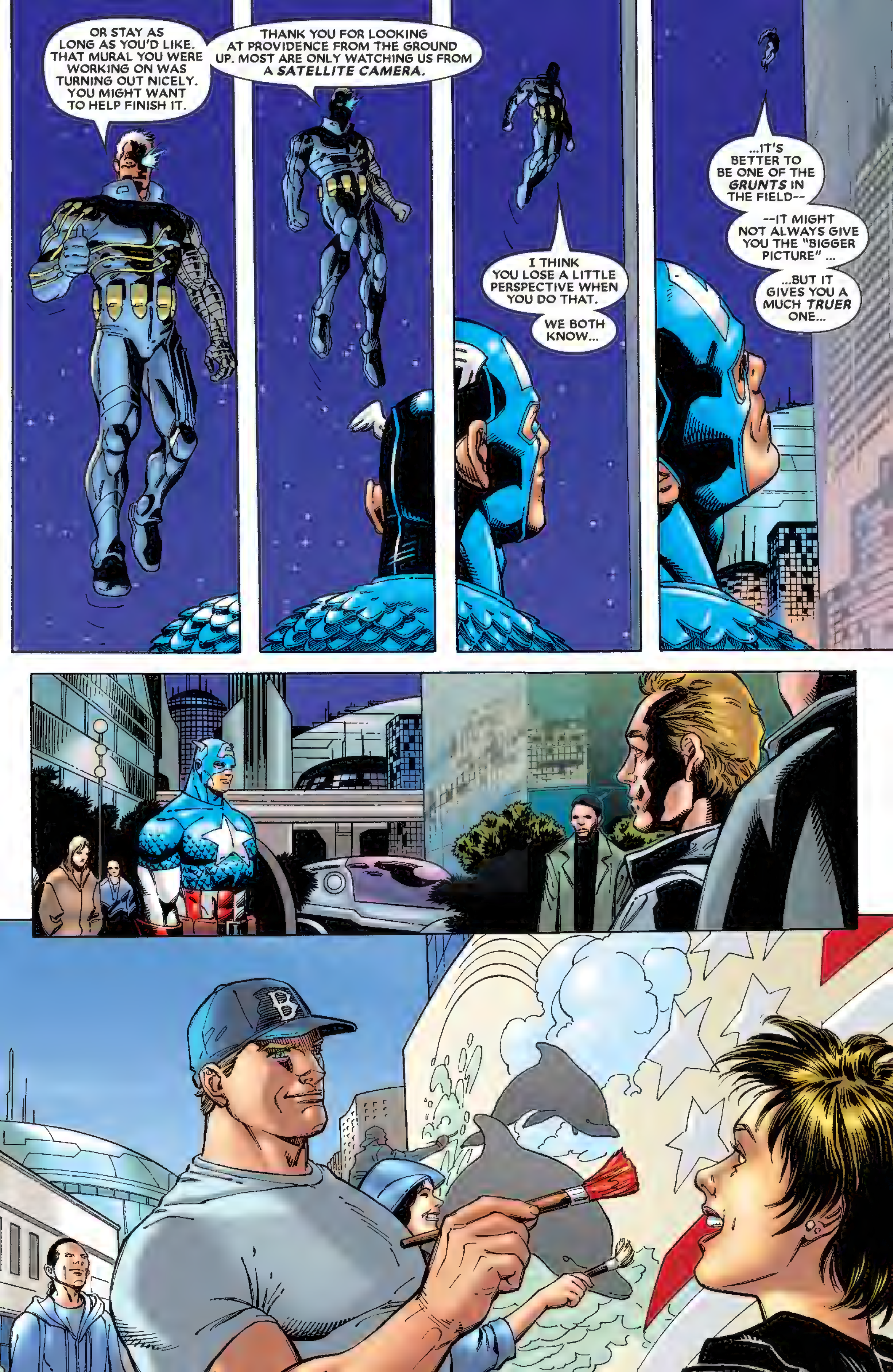

THEN A FUNNY THING HAPPENS--IN MY MIND--IN OUR LINK--I STOP SEEING *MYSELF* IN CABLE'S PLACE--
AM I BEING *MANIPULATED?* SEEING HIM IN PLACE OF ME? AS "MORE IMPORTANT" THAN I AM?
OR...IS THIS...MY *OWN* DECISION...?
AND IF IT IS...
FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE!
FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE!
HE LEADS, THEY FOLLOW, ALL KNOWING...SO MANY OF THEM--SO MANY--ARE GOING TO *DIE*...


MEN FOUGHT--AND DIED--TO PROTECT MY SHIELD--?
TO DEFEND-- AND UPHOLD-- AN *IDEAL.*
ARE YOU OKAY?
NO.
YOU CARRIED IT FOR YEARS?
AND IT WAS TORN FROM MY ARM... WELL, ACTUALLY, MY *ARM* WAS TORN FROM MY BODY...*LONG STORY...*
AFTER WE *LOST* THE *WAR,* I CAME BACK IN TIME-- ORIGINALLY TO KILL *APOCALYPSE* TO PREVENT MY FUTURE...
...BUT I LEARNED *THAT* TRICK NEVER WORKS.
SO MY MISSION BECAME QUITE A BIT *HARDER*--TO CREATE A BETTER TOMORROW BY CHANGING THE *NOW.*
FOLKS, I KNOW THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT COULD WE HAVE SOME PRIVACY? THANK YOU.
CAPTAIN, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, EVEN COUNTING YOUR *DECADES* SPENT IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION--
--YOUR LIFESPAN-- YOUR TIME ON EARTH, SIGNIFICANT AS IT WAS-- *IS*--OUTLASTING YOUR DEATH THE WAY IT WILL--


--IT'S STILL NOTHING BUT AN *EYEBLINK* IN COMPARISON TO WHAT I'VE SEEN. WHAT I HAVE LIVED THROUGH.
I'VE TRIED TO MAKE THIS CLEAR TO ALL OF YOU TIME AND AGAIN WITHOUT BEING TOO *ARROGANT* ABOUT IT, BUT...
...MY PERSPECTIVE ON *ALL* THE THINGS YOU HOLD DEAR: LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE--
--ARE AS ADVANCED FROM YOURS AS YOURS ARE FROM A *CHIMP.*
AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT BEING TOO ARROGANT ABOUT IT...
YOU FIGHT IN TERMS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW...YOU THINK IN TERMS OF HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT THINGS FOR YEARS TO COME.
I THINK IN TERMS OF CENTURIES, OF *MILLENNIA*--PAST AND FUTURE.
I'M NOT TRYING TO BELITTLE YOU--HONESTLY. WHILE I HAD YOU LINKED TO THE *INFONET,* YOU *FELT* MY RESPECT FOR YOU.
I DID...
AND YOU UNDERSTAND ORDER AND DISCIPLINE, HONOR AND PRINCIPLE--BUT YOU'RE A *CAPTAIN*--
--AND I'VE BEEN A *FOUR-STAR GENERAL,* HEAD OF THE *JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,* A *PRESIDENT* AND A *POPE* ALL ROLLED INTO ONE.
1761


WHAT YOU WANT TO DO--WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO--PEOPLE WON'T ACCEPT THAT.
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T THINK IN TERMS OF MILLENNIA. PEOPLE WHO DEAL WITH THINGS DAY-TO-DAY.
I WILL GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO SEE... JUST LIKE I DID FOR YOU...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M CONVINCED?
TELL ME, THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU *GREW UP* WANTING--WHAT *FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT* HELD OUT TO ALL OF YOU AS HIS IDEAL.
NATHAN... I'M NOT A SOCIAL THEORIST OR A POLITICIAN...
NO... YOU'RE A *SOLDIER.*
AND EVERY GOOD LEADER NEEDS GOOD SOLDIERS.
THE *AVENGERS,* THE *X-MEN*--WE'LL HAVE TO STOP YOU AGAIN.
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE. YOU CAN'T HOPE TO *DREAM* LIKE I DO.
IF YOU DID, THEN YOU'D BE FORCED TO *ACT* ON THOSE DREAMS.
I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY. YOU KNOW THAT. ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS TO THINK ABOUT THIS. THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO.
DON'T BE ONE OF THE *ROMANS.* DON'T BE *PONTIUS PILATE.* YOU OF ALL PEOPLE...YOU CAN BE *MORE* THAN THAT.


JUST SO YOU KNOW, A FEW WEEKS AGO, WHEN THE *AVENGERS* WERE AMBUSHED BY THOSE WOULD-BE HEROES, THE *THUNDERBOLTS*--
--THE *COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES* WAS NOT ONLY SENDING YOU A MESSAGE, THEY WERE ALSO *DISTRACTING* YOU.
THEY PLANTED *SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS* THROUGHOUT *AVENGERS TOWER.* I HAD AN OPERATIVE CONFIRM THEIR PRESENCE.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND THEM--THEY DON'T EVEN EXIST IN MACROSCOPIC SPACE...
...BUT I CAN *DEACTIVATE* THEM ANYTIME YOU ASK.
ARE YOU *BLACKMAILING* ME--OR TRYING TO *BRIBE* ME?
WHICHEVER YOU'D PREFER.
YOU CAN LEAVE ANYTIME YOU'D LIKE.


OR STAY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE. THAT MURAL YOU WERE WORKING ON WAS TURNING OUT NICELY. YOU MIGHT WANT TO HELP FINISH IT.
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AT PROVIDENCE FROM THE GROUND UP. MOST ARE ONLY WATCHING US FROM A *SATELLITE CAMERA.*
I THINK YOU LOSE A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE WHEN YOU DO THAT.
WE BOTH KNOW...
...IT'S BETTER TO BE ONE OF THE *GRUNTS* IN THE FIELD--
--IT MIGHT NOT ALWAYS GIVE YOU THE "BIGGER PICTURE" ...
...BUT IT GIVES YOU A MUCH *TRUER* ONE...
B

DEAR DEADPOOL

When Nicole sent me the letters this month, she included a note that said, "Trying to include letters that are prescient and lend themselves to plugging upcoming things." I have no idea what "prescient" means, but if you let those B.A.D. Girls guest-star again, I'll surely be plugging some upcoming things…

Dear Deadpool,

I was just wondering if you and Cable were going to have anything to do with the big Marvel events. I just get the feeling that you and Cable are in your own little universe with no influence on the other titles. Here's to seeing you out there, making a difference. Because the way I see it is, the more Deadpool the better. And a little more Cable wouldn't hurt either.

Robert Jackson, Lansing, MI

Well, everyone at Marvel who doesn't hate me, hates Cable, so that pretty much covers that, doesn't it? Of course, as you can see from the last couple issues, we're guest-starring those moptop New Avengers characters to increase our sales, wrap up some loose ends from other corners of the Isolated Fabey-verse and – what? Wait…? The next two issues we're doing a PREQUEL to a big X-Men story featuring the return of Apocalypse? And what else was that? There's a BIG, BIG, BIG story coming up called CIVIL WAR that will affect the entire Marvel Universe and we're doing a bunch of sales–and hair-raising–issues that tie into that? Why, Robert, it appears your letter is almost… prescient.

Dear Deadpool,

What spurred me to write this letter was my breakfast. I had papaya this morning and as I was eating it I thought, "Golly…" (yeah, I actually said "golly…"–not out loud but in my head…) and I thought, "Papaya is a pretty cool word…Deadpool would like this word…" and then I had some mango… and thought "I have to tell Deadpool about this!" so here it is. "Mango," "papaya," all yours. Maybe not as cool as "duct tape" or "chimichanga" or "spatula," but at least mango and papaya are all natural and when you slice them they do actually kind of bleed.

Mike, Texas

Mike, I do want to give you some kudos for those two excellent words. The best news is that two new Marvel characters named Mango and Papaya will be introduced into the Marvel Universe and they'll play a very important role in the upcoming Marvel CIVIL WAR limited series event coming soon from Marvel.[1]

Dear Deadpool,

Love the current series, man; it's what keeps me dragging my arse down to the comics shop twenty miles away on those cold Thursdays! Big props to Fabian and Patrick, you guys rule! As I always say, "MORE DEADPOOL CENTERFOLDS!"

Lewis-Paul Stuchbury, London, England

Nicole says now would be a good time for a "Subscription plug!!!" Apparently, you can FINALLY get Cable & Deadpool through Marvel's subscription department (www.marvel.com/subscribe), guaranteed crispy clean copies every month without a twenty mile trek! Unless your mail box is twenty miles away from your front porch, in which case, never mind.

PLEASE I CONSIDER MYSELF A X-FAN THE KIND OF FAN NOT ONLY COLLECT X-TITLES BUT ANY TITLE I FOUND WITH A X-MEMBER, AND NOT JUST THAT I COLLECT X-MEN TITLES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN, RUSSIA, SPAIN ETC….

SO PLEASE PUBLISH THIS LETTER IN "CABLE E DEADPOOL" OR "UNCANNY X-MEN," "WOLVERINE" OR FINALLY "X-MEN," MY FAVORITE TITLES. I JUST WANT TO ASK ONE THING: WHEN APOCALYPSE WILL RETURN? I LIKE THE CHARACTER AND I MISS HIM IN X-MEN TITLES. IN ULTIMATE X-MEN WHEN HE COMES BACK? SPECIALLY AFTER HOUSE OF M, AND MAYBE IN THE FUTURE, A ONSLAUGHT COME BACK?

SO IF YOU CAN ANSWER THIS 3 QUESTIONS I CAN DIE A HAPPY X-FAN. SORRY ABOUT MY ENGLISH.

REGARDS,
RENE AZEVEDO, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Your English is a heckuva lot better than my Portuguese, Rene–although apparently Nicole's Portuguese is a heckuva lot better than her English…which explains how she became an Editor, what with Marvel's special Portuguese Publishing Program.[2]

As you might have heard, even if tin-cup communication is still the vogue down in Brazil, Apocalypse will be coming back in our very next issue! We don't know when Ultimate Apocalypse will come back, but does it really matter? Those books don't count. What was that, Nicole? Ultimate Deadpool is making his debut in ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN? Oh, in that case, the Ultimate books count plenty now! In fact, the entire Ultimate Universe will be playing a major role in Marvel's upcoming universe-shattering limited series, CIVIL WAR.[3]

Dear Deadpool,

Sweet Christmas! You got yourself a mighty entertaining funnybook here, I can tell you that! I had just about given up on Marvel with all the disassembling and reassembling and Infinite Countdown to Infinite Cris…uh…that wasn't you guys, was it? Well, just suffice to say, I'm really enjoying CABLE & DEADPOOL and I just wanted to drop you a quick line to tell you so and ask a few obligatory comic geek questions. Here goes:

1. Do you hate robots? I hate robots. Do you hate robots?

2. Did you know that Purina makes Monkey Chow? What's that all about?

3. That Ann Coulter reference in issue 22 was priceless. Okay, not "Department 56" or "Paintings of Kids with Really Big Eyes" or "Fireman Rescues Kittycat from a Tree" priceless, just…anyway, speaking of politics, since Nate is from the distant future, can he tell me if the US will ever adopt universal health insurance? Also, when can I expect to see G-Dub get his righteous smackdown from Hillary Clinton? I would also accept Hilary Duff–both would be sexy in their way. Did you know that Ann Coulter is a robot? See #1.

5. Speaking of sexy, have you seen Bea Arthur's one-woman show? It's HILARIOUS–that woman has such a potty mouth! It's on CD now if you want to check it out, but I wouldn't recommend trying her recipe for lamb. It's not very good. I suppose if I hadn't substituted tofurkey…

4. Fabian?!? Is that his REAL name? Does he have a pompadour?

OK. Well, time's up and I have to get back to the recreation room. If you're late, all the really good jigsaw puzzles are taken, and I really hate to get stuck with that one of the gumballs—it's just too darned hard.

See you soon. I hope Santa is good to you.

Regards,
Rick Griffith, St. Paul, MN

You lost me with the word "suffice," Rick, which I consider a completely inappropriate word to use in a family comic book, but then you recovered with your numbered questions (which I like very much).

1. I hate robots. Except for robots of the B.A.D. Girls. Me like them `bots.

2. I like `em just fine with a tall glass of cold milk. Crunchy, like Chex Mix.

3. Ann Coulter getting a smackdown from Hilary Duff. Be still my heart.

5. Hey, wait a second–you went out of order and thought I wouldn't catch it. Suckah! Ooooh… Bea Arthur, live on stage? Her dulcet tones on CD? I need some time alone…

4. It is his real name, you provincial hick. He was born in another country whose language is not derived from a rigid Anglo-Saxon foundation, which gives him more of a world view than anyone from St. Paul could hope to have (although I do like your Beer Girls a lot). He is also bald as a cucumber, which explains why he is no longer allowed to write big Marvel Universe changing storylines like CIVIL WAR anymore…

Dear DP,

Commcast?!? Bwah, ha, ha, ha…The guy Weasel killed nearly a decade ago…ha, ha, ha. That is pure genius. I can imagine the dead villains team-up meeting:

Graviton: "Hi, I'm Graviton and I was killed by the GLA."

Commcast/Black Box: "Hi, I'm Commcast and I was killed by Weasel."

Graviton: "Weasel? Is he one of Squirrel Girl's teammates?"

Seriously though, "Bosom Buddies" was a great arc and Fabian has an excellent way of bringing back second-string characters. I can't wait to see if the (serpenty) B.A.D. Girls pop up again in the MU; after all this is the title that helped relaunch Silver Surfer's (ANNIHILATION), Siryn's (X-FACTOR) and Cannonball's (UNCANNY X-MEN) careers!!!

However, who's Dave Ross? I noticed his name alongside Patrick's in the credits--a penciler each between Cable and Deadpool? Or has Cable finally gone too far and demanded his own hair stylist penciler? Either way the art was still very cool, and Deadpool vs Makeshift / Rive was amazingly Maximum Cloneage (which I liked).

As always, keep up the brilliant work and Make Mine Marvel,

Gary Pickup, Salford, UK

Dave Ross is and always has been an excellent comics artist having worked on a wide variety of titles for Marvel, DC and other companies. Check out his art in Thunderbolts #101, but not in CIVIL WAR, which is being drawn by Steve McNiven.

Interesting note you made about how everyone who appears in CDP ends up using our enormous popularity as a springboard for new gigs. You're absolutely right. Lame mooks like Spider-Man and Captain America will probably get their own books now, too, after trying so hard for so many years. I made Spidey look so good, he'll probably end up getting like, I don't know, eight monthly books or something…

The two-part prequel to the X-Men's Blood of Apocalypse storyline! Wild guess, I'm figuring it involves Apocalypse. And blood.

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[1] That's a lie.

[2] All lies.

[3] That last bit isn't true, but Ultimate Deadpool WILL appear in ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN 93, on sale in April. Read it!

-Nicole

THE TWO-PART PREQUEL TO THE X-MEN'S BLOOD OF APOCALYPSE STORYLINE! WILD GUESS, I'M FIGURING IT INVOLVES APOCALYPSE. AND BLOOD.

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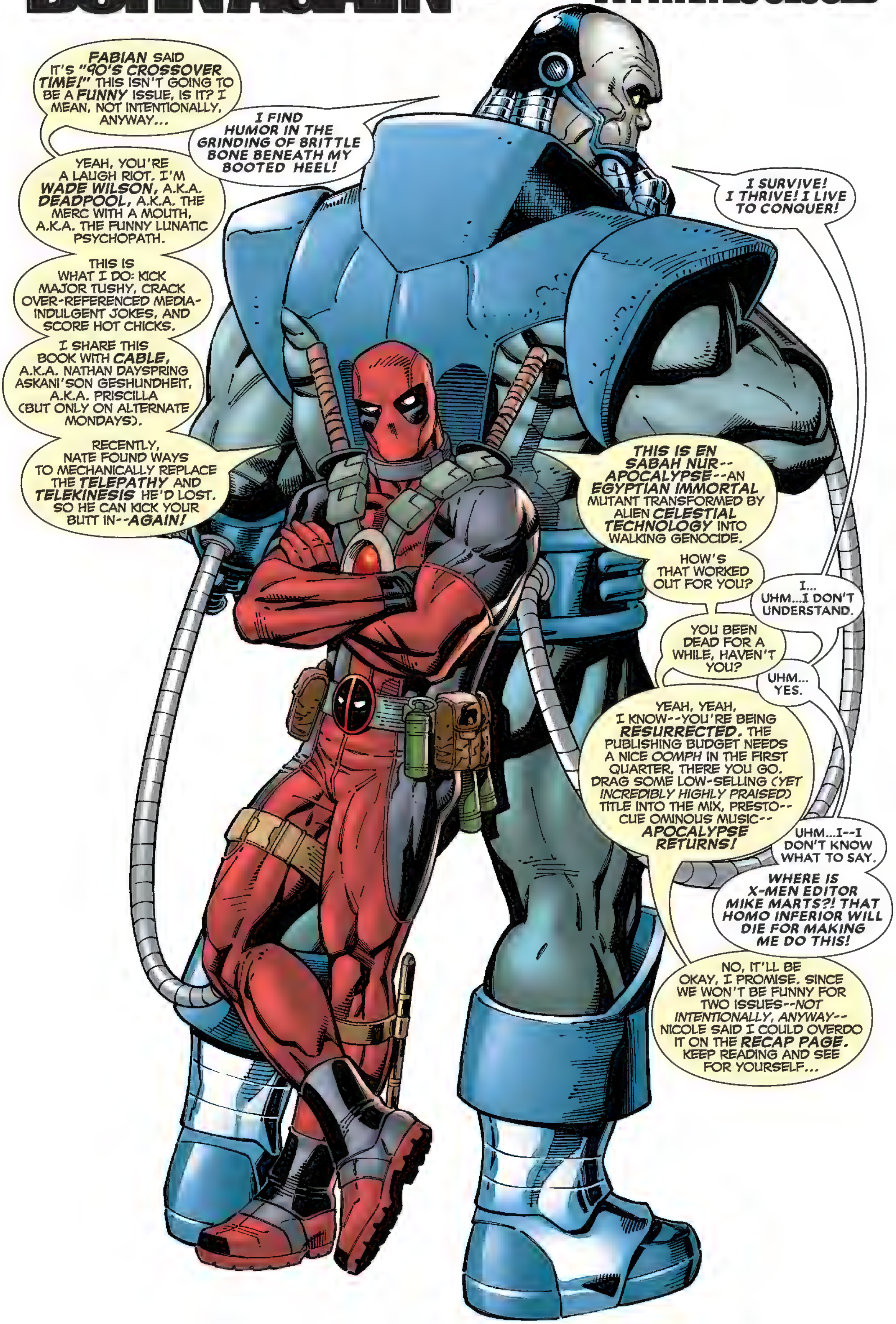
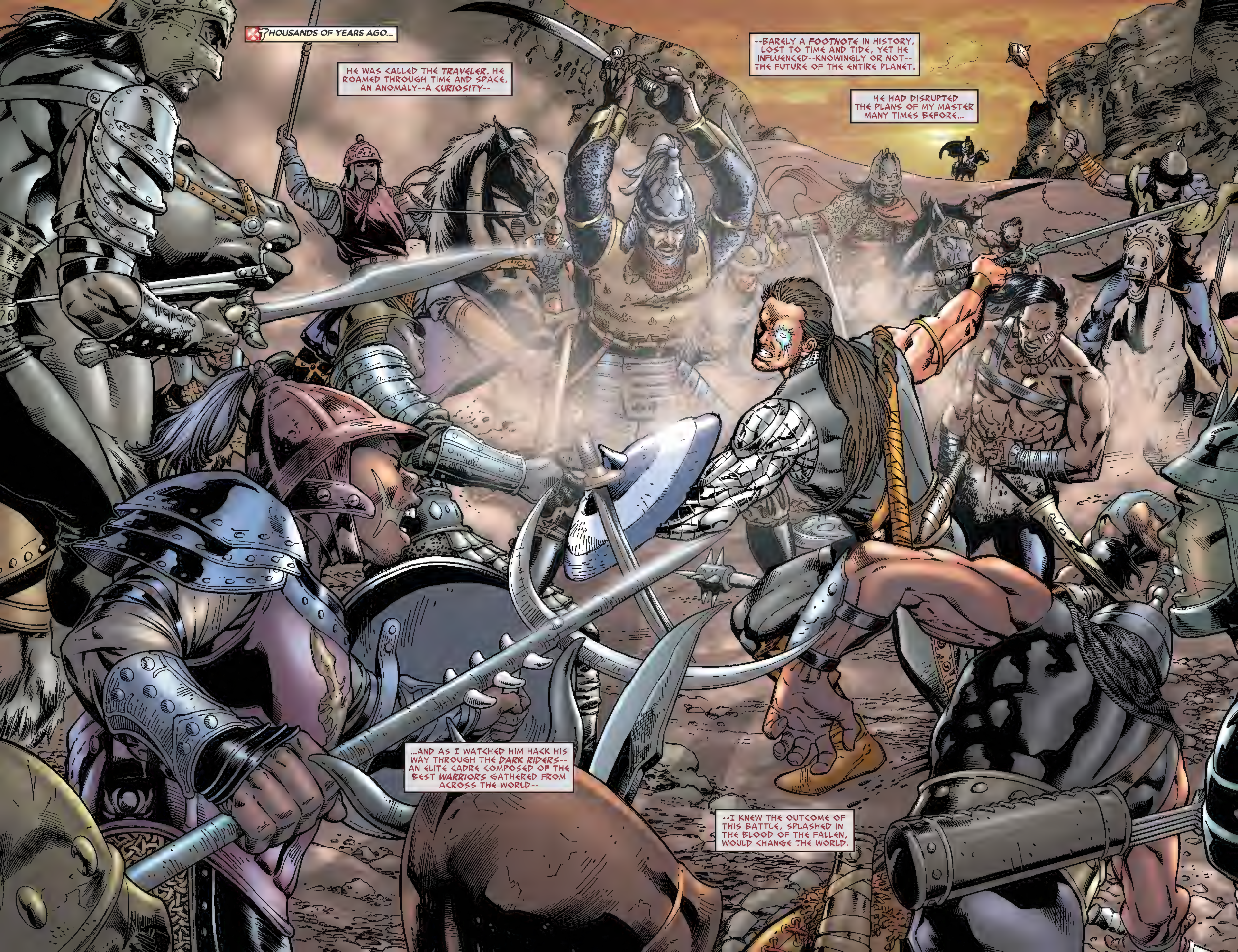
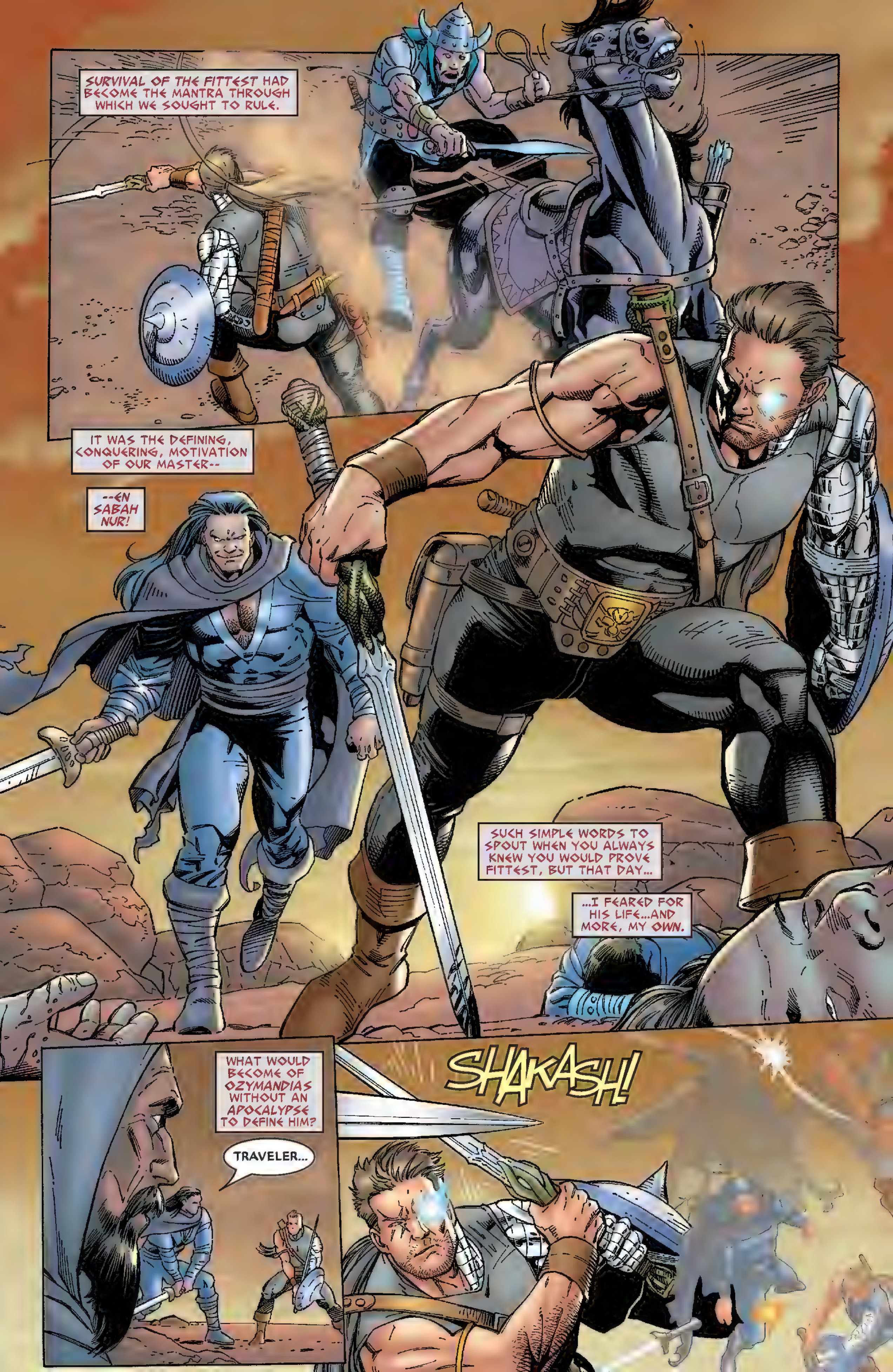
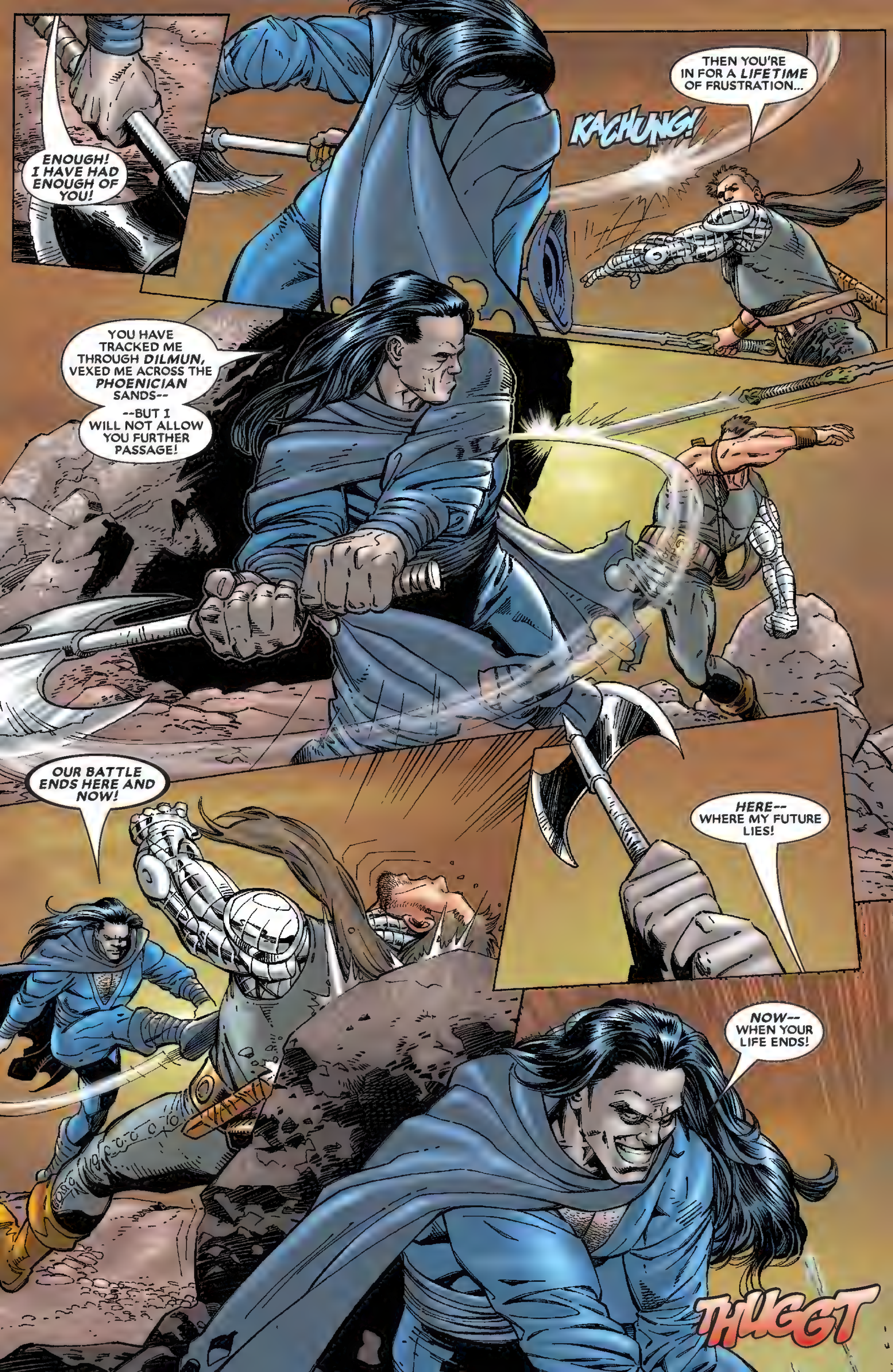
Patrick Zircher
ALAN.TAM.

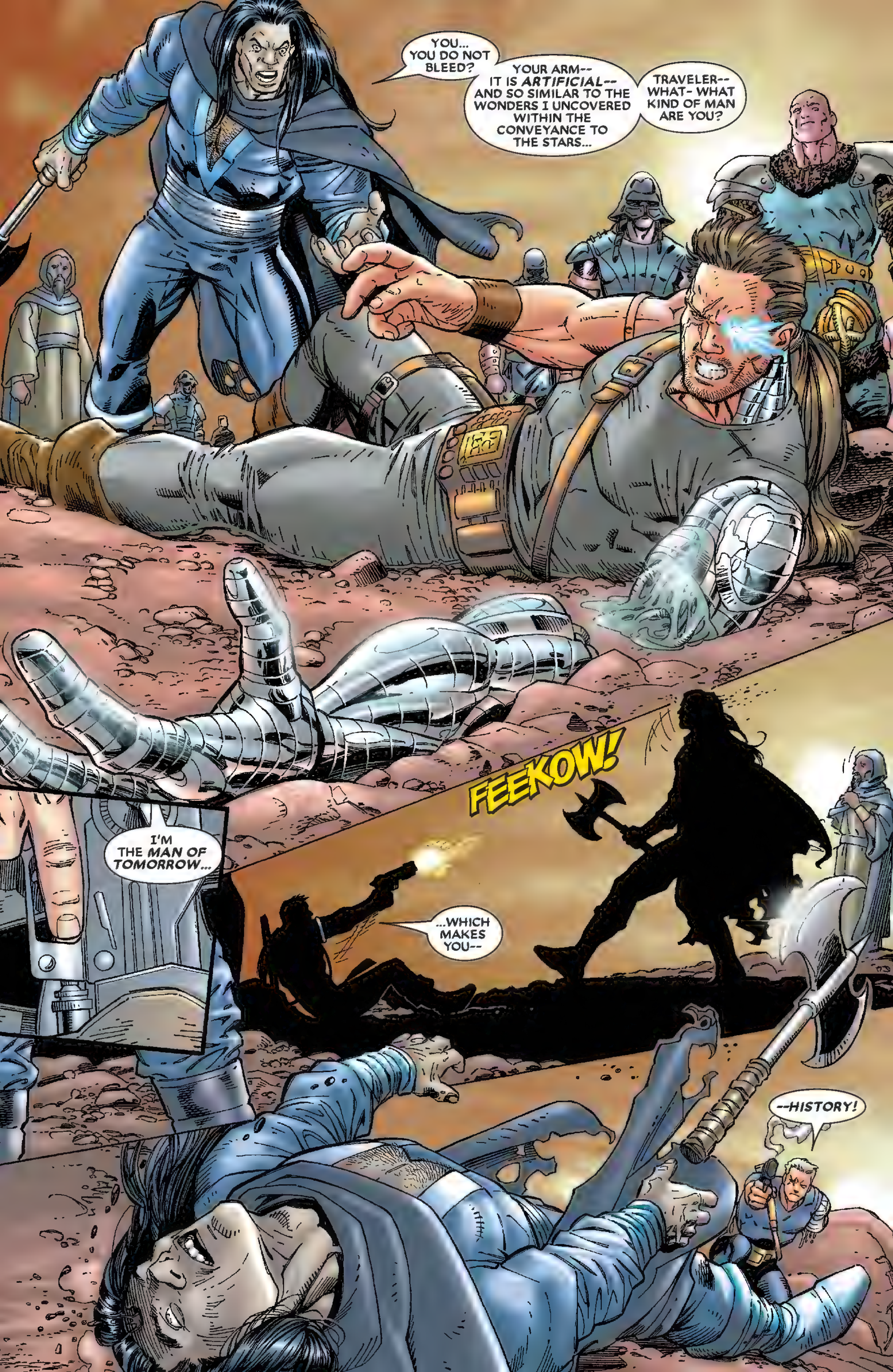
BORN AGAIN PART ONE WITH EYES CLOSED

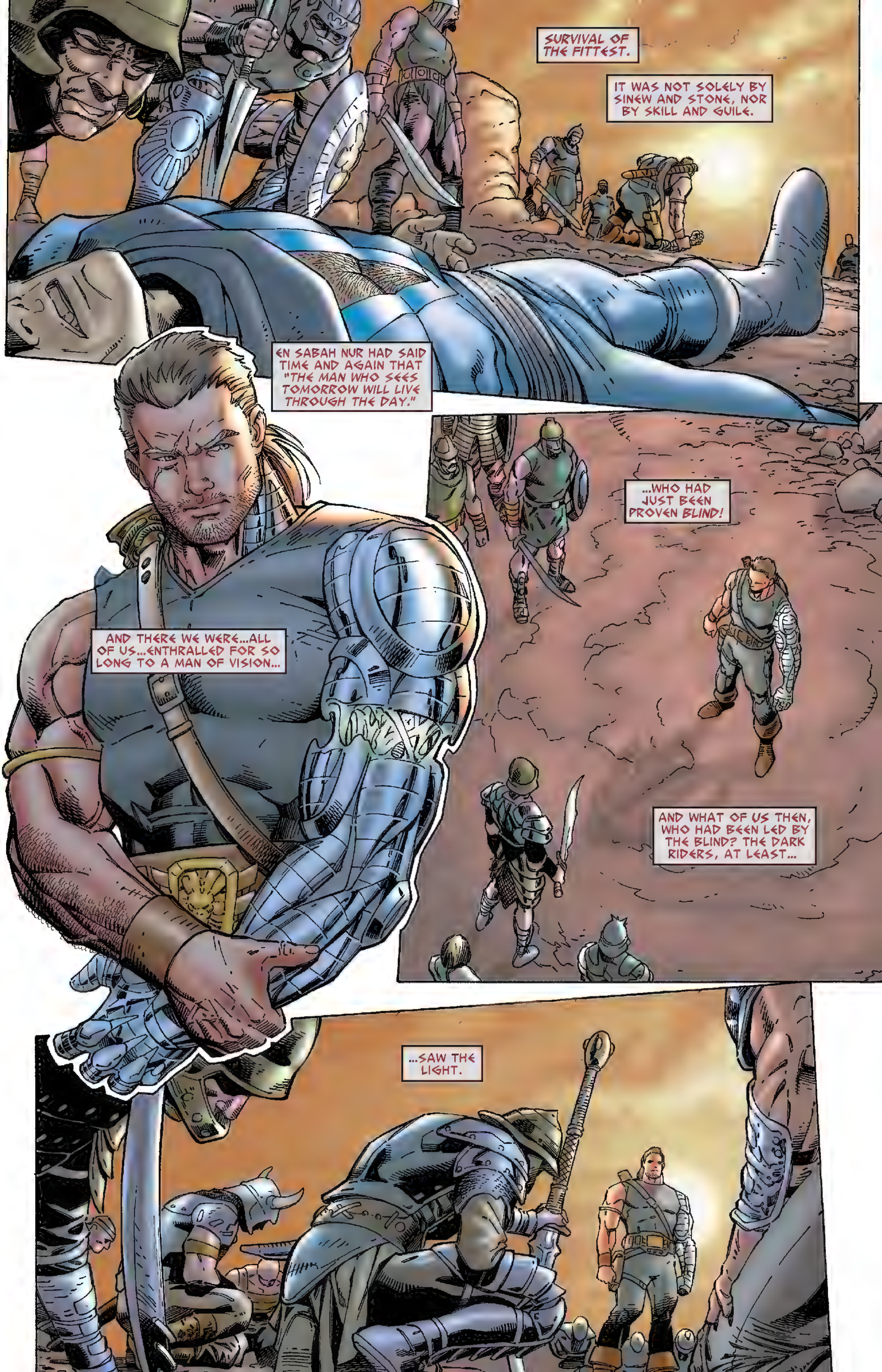

FABIAN SAID IT'S "90'S CROSSOVER TIME!" THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE A FUNNY ISSUE, IS IT? I MEAN, NOT INTENTIONALLY, ANYWAY...
I FIND HUMOR IN THE GRINDING OF BRITTLE BONE BENEATH MY BOOTED HEEL!
YEAH, YOU'RE A LAUGH RIOT. I'M WADE WILSON, A.K.A. DEADPOOL, A.K.A. THE MERC WITH A MOUTH, A.K.A. THE FUNNY LUNATIC PSYCHOPATH.
THIS IS WHAT I DO: KICK MAJOR TUSHY, CRACK OVER-REFERENCED MEDIA-INDULGENT JOKES, AND SCORE HOT CHICKS.
I SHARE THIS BOOK WITH CABLE, A.K.A. NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON GESHUNDHEIT, A.K.A. PRISCILLA (BUT ONLY ON ALTERNATE MONDAYS).
RECENTLY, NATE FOUND WAYS TO MECHANICALLY REPLACE THE TELEPATHY AND TELEKINESIS HE'D LOST. SO HE CAN KICK YOUR BUTT IN--AGAIN!
I SURVIVE! I THRIVE! I LIVE TO CONQUER!
THIS IS EN SABAH NUR--APOCALYPSE--AN EGYPTIAN IMMORTAL MUTANT TRANSFORMED BY ALIEN CELESTIAL TECHNOLOGY INTO WALKING GENOCIDE.
HOW'S THAT WORKED OUT FOR YOU?
I... UHM...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU BEEN DEAD FOR A WHILE, HAVEN'T YOU?
UHM... YES.
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW--YOU'RE BEING RESURRECTED. THE PUBLISHING BUDGET NEEDS A NICE OOMPH IN THE FIRST QUARTER, THERE YOU GO. DRAG SOME LOW-SELLING (YET INCREDIBLY HIGHLY PRAISED) TITLE INTO THE MIX, PRESTO--CUE OMINOUS MUSIC--APOCALYPSE RETURNS!
UHM...I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
WHERE IS X-MEN EDITOR MIKE MARTS?! THAT HOMO INFERIOR WILL DIE FOR MAKING ME DO THIS!
NO, IT'LL BE OKAY, I PROMISE. SINCE WE WON'T BE FUNNY FOR TWO ISSUES--NOT INTENTIONALLY, ANYWAY--NICOLE SAID I COULD OVERDO IT ON THE RECAP PAGE. KEEP READING AND SEE FOR YOURSELF...

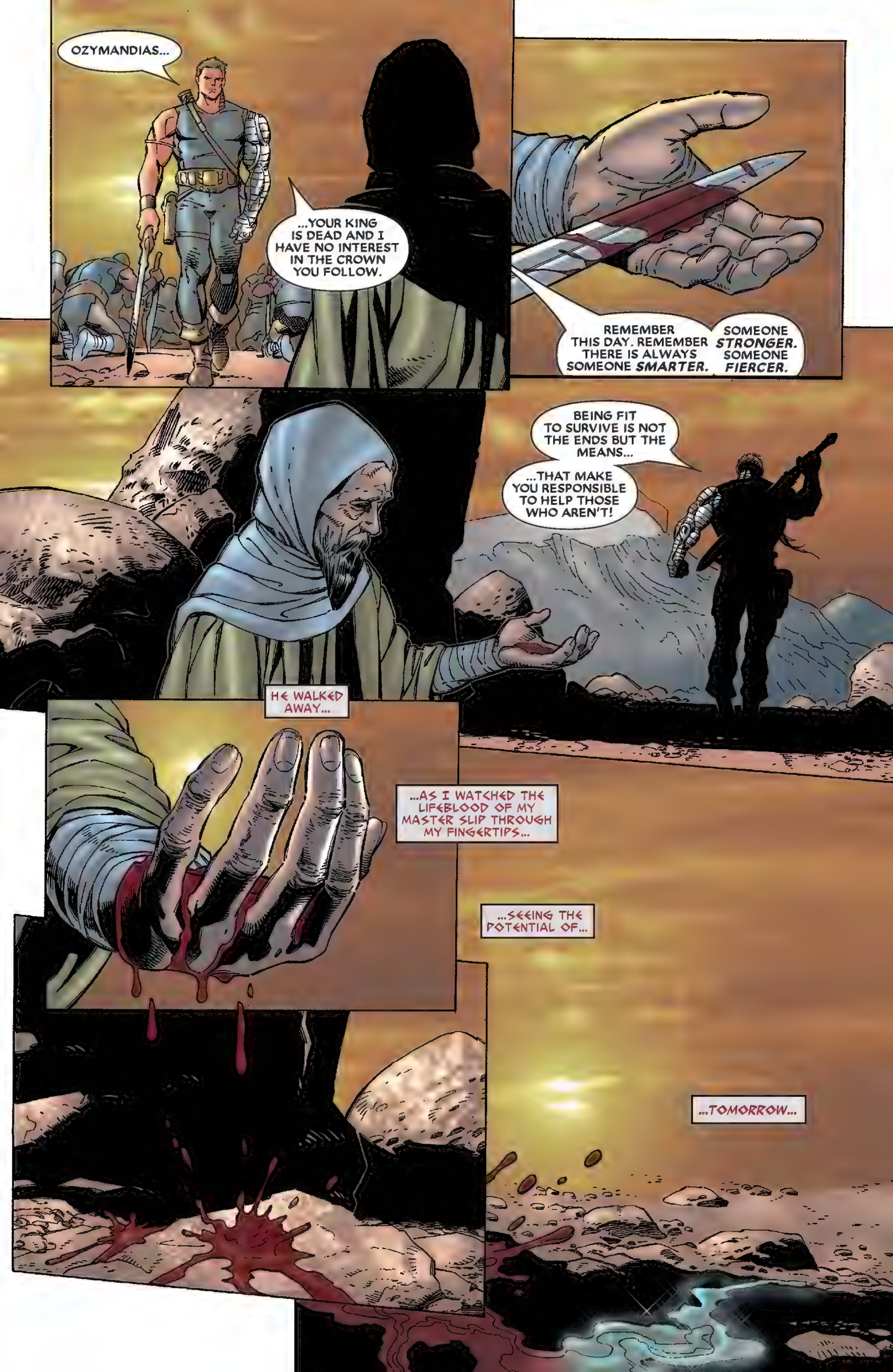

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO...
HE WAS CALLED THE TRAVELER. HE ROAMED THROUGH TIME AND SPACE, AN ANOMALY--A CURIOSITY--
--BARELY A FOOTNOTE IN HISTORY, LOST TO TIME AND TIDE, YET HE INFLUENCED--KNOWINGLY OR NOT--THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE PLANET.
HE HAD DISRUPTED THE PLANS OF MY MASTER MANY TIMES BEFORE...
...AND AS I WATCHED HIM HACK HIS WAY THROUGH THE DARK RIDERS--AN ELITE CADRE COMPOSED OF THE BEST WARRIORS GATHERED FROM ACROSS THE WORLD--
--I KNEW THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE, SPLASHED IN THE BLOOD OF THE FALLEN, WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD.

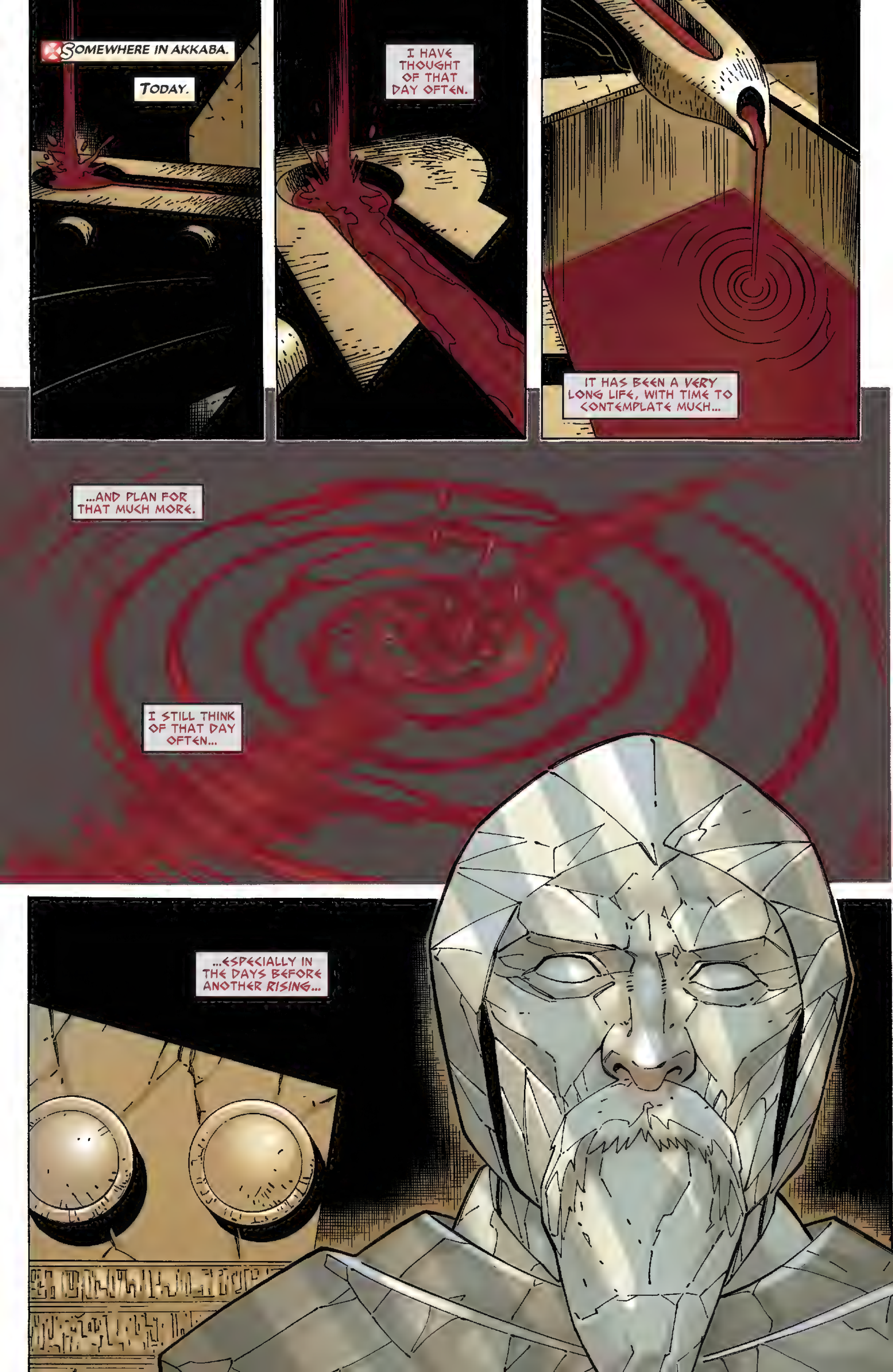

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST HAD BECOME THE MANTRA THROUGH WHICH WE SOUGHT TO RULE.
IT WAS THE DEFINING, CONQUERING, MOTIVATION OF OUR MASTER--
--EN SABAH NUR!
SUCH SIMPLE WORDS TO SPOUT WHEN YOU ALWAYS KNEW YOU WOULD PROVE FITTEST, BUT THAT DAY...
...I FEARED FOR HIS LIFE...AND MORE, MY OWN.
WHAT WOULD BECOME OF OZYMANDIAS WITHOUT AN APOCALYPSE TO DEFINE HIM?
TRAVELER...
SHAKASH!

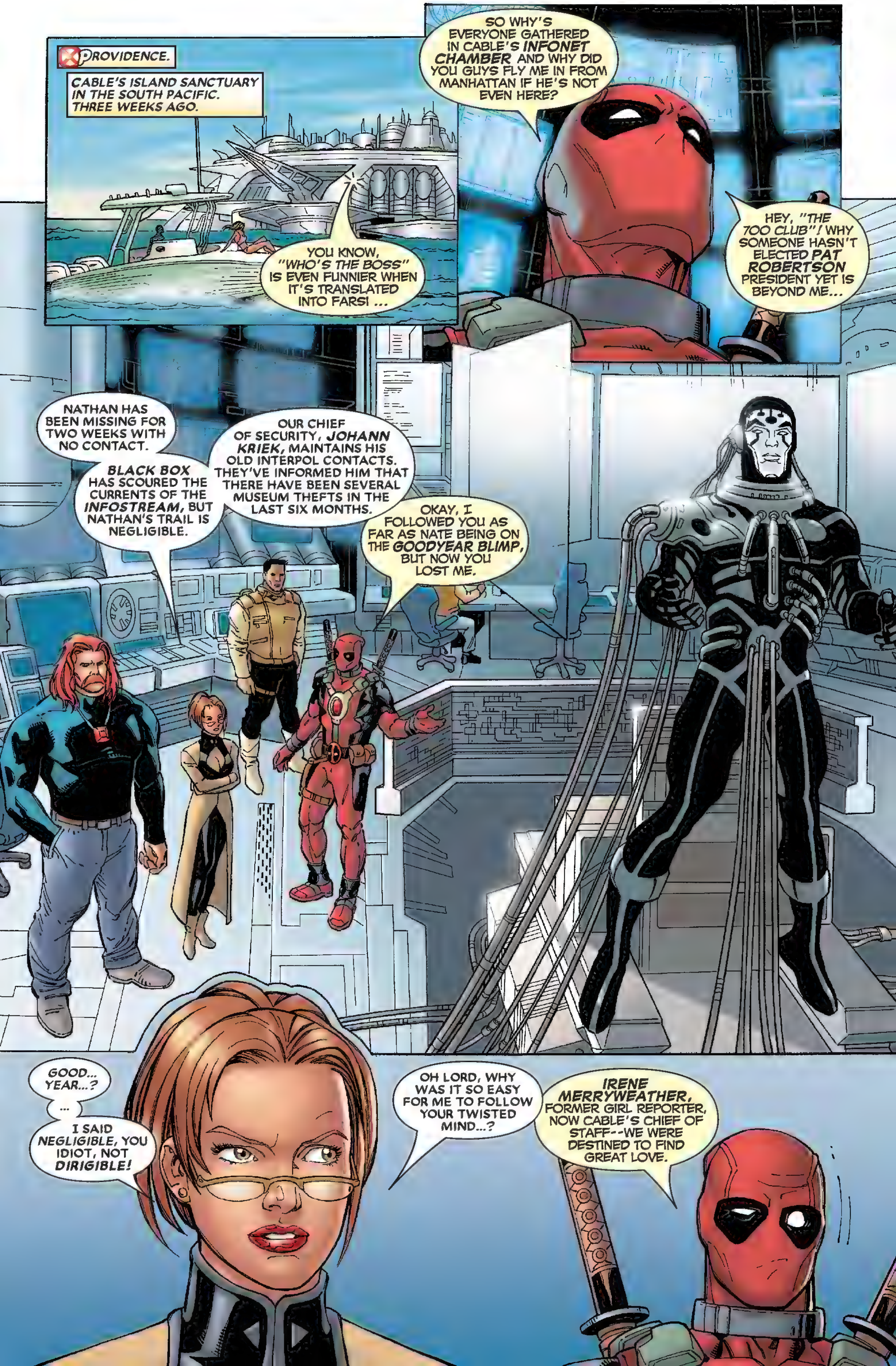

ENOUGH! I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!
KACHUNG!
THEN YOU'RE IN FOR A *LIFETIME* OF FRUSTRATION...
YOU HAVE TRACKED ME THROUGH *DILMUN*, VEXED ME ACROSS THE *PHOENICIAN* SANDS--
--BUT I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU FURTHER PASSAGE!
OUR BATTLE ENDS HERE AND NOW!
HERE-- WHERE MY FUTURE LIES!
NOW-- WHEN YOUR LIFE ENDS!
THUGGT

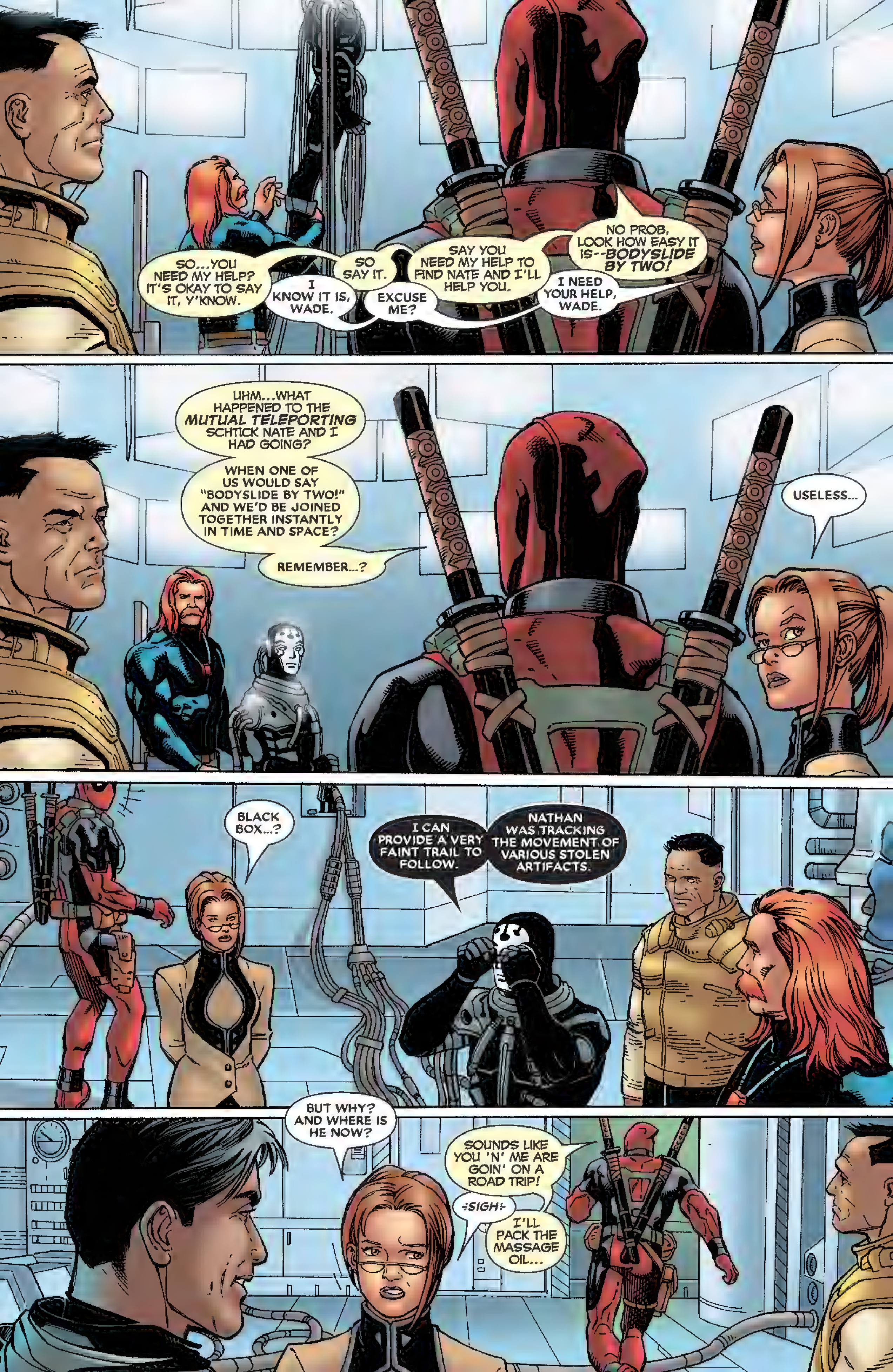

YOU... YOU DO NOT BLEED?
YOUR ARM-- IT IS *ARTIFICIAL*-- AND SO SIMILAR TO THE WONDERS I UNCOVERED WITHIN THE CONVEYANCE TO THE STARS...
TRAVELER-- WHAT- WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU?
I'M THE *MAN OF TOMORROW*...
FEEKOW!
...WHICH MAKES YOU--
--HISTORY!

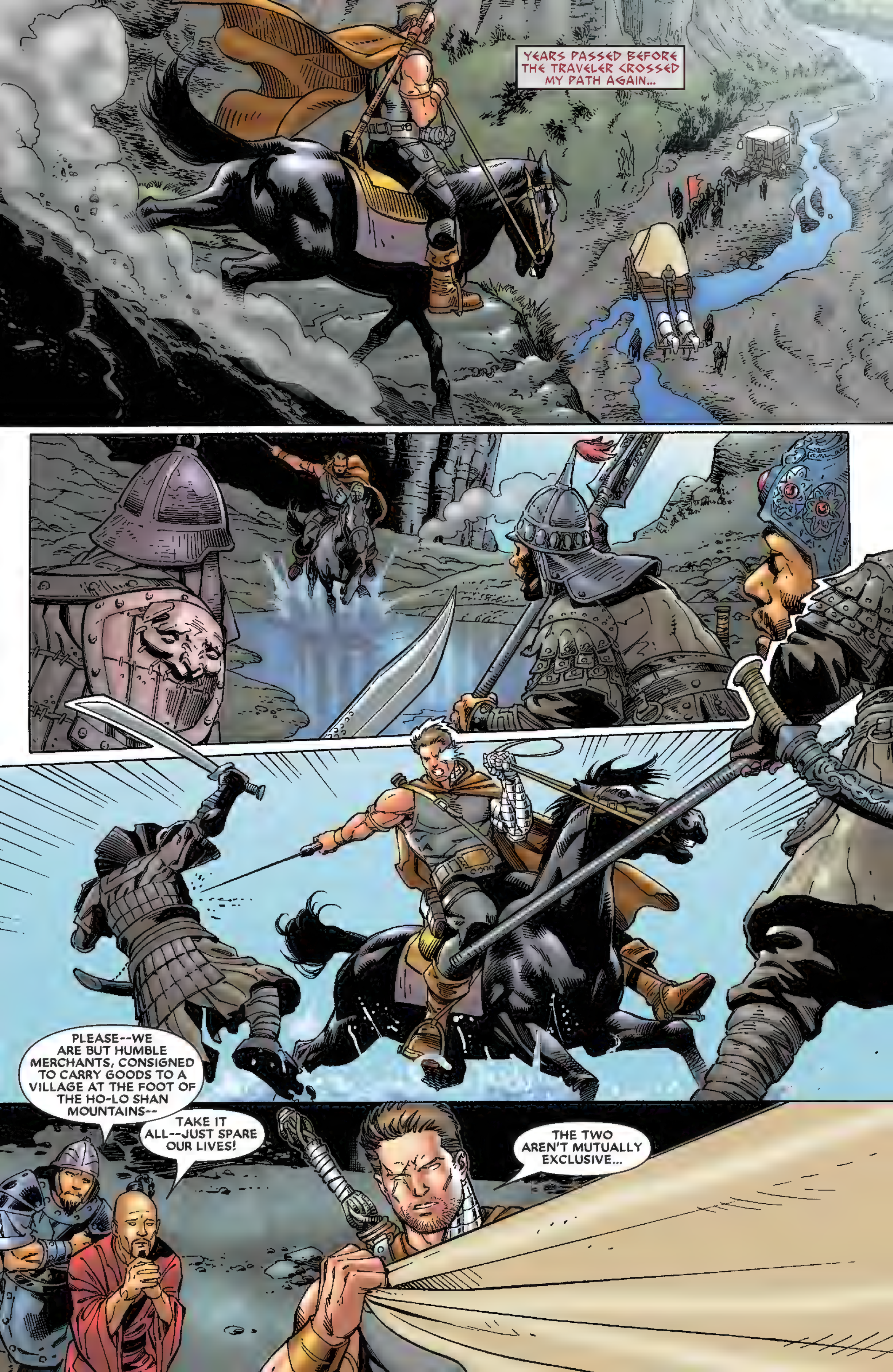

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.
IT WAS NOT SOLELY BY SINEW AND STONE, NOR BY SKILL AND GUILE.
EN SABAH NUR HAD SAID TIME AND AGAIN THAT "THE MAN WHO SEES TOMORROW WILL LIVE THROUGH THE DAY."
AND THERE WE WERE...ALL OF US...ENTHRALLED FOR SO LONG TO A MAN OF VISION...
...WHO HAD JUST BEEN PROVEN BLIND!
AND WHAT OF US THEN, WHO HAD BEEN LED BY THE BLIND? THE DARK RIDERS, AT LEAST...
...SAW THE LIGHT.

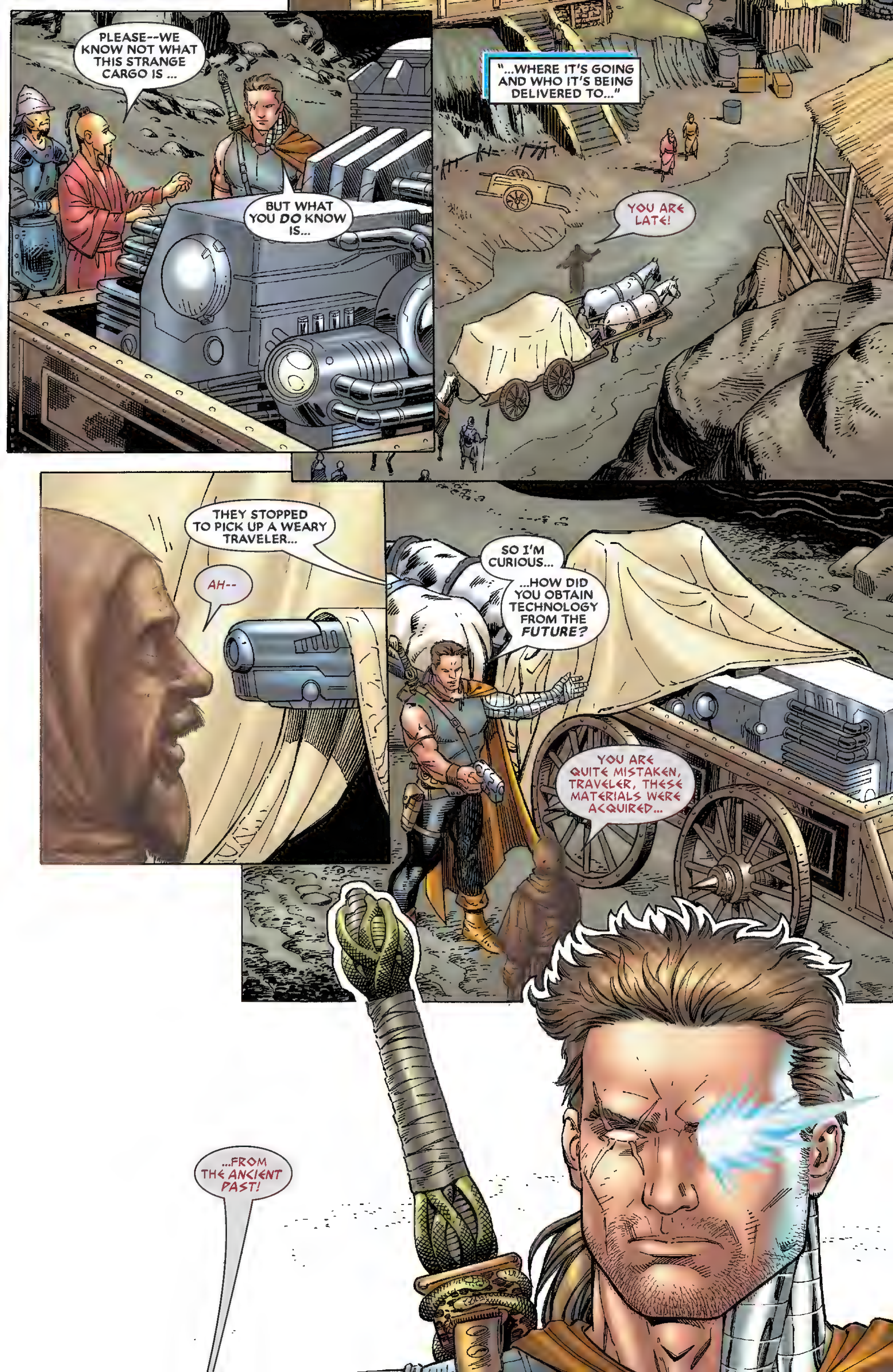

OZYMANDIAS...
...YOUR KING IS DEAD AND I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE CROWN YOU FOLLOW.
REMEMBER THIS DAY. REMEMBER THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE SMARTER.
SOMEONE STRONGER. SOMEONE FIERCER.
BEING FIT TO SURVIVE IS NOT THE ENDS BUT THE MEANS...
...THAT MAKE YOU RESPONSIBLE TO HELP THOSE WHO AREN'T!
HE WALKED AWAY...
...AS I WATCHED THE LIFEBLOOD OF MY MASTER SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERTIPS...
...SEEING THE POTENTIAL OF...
...TOMORROW...

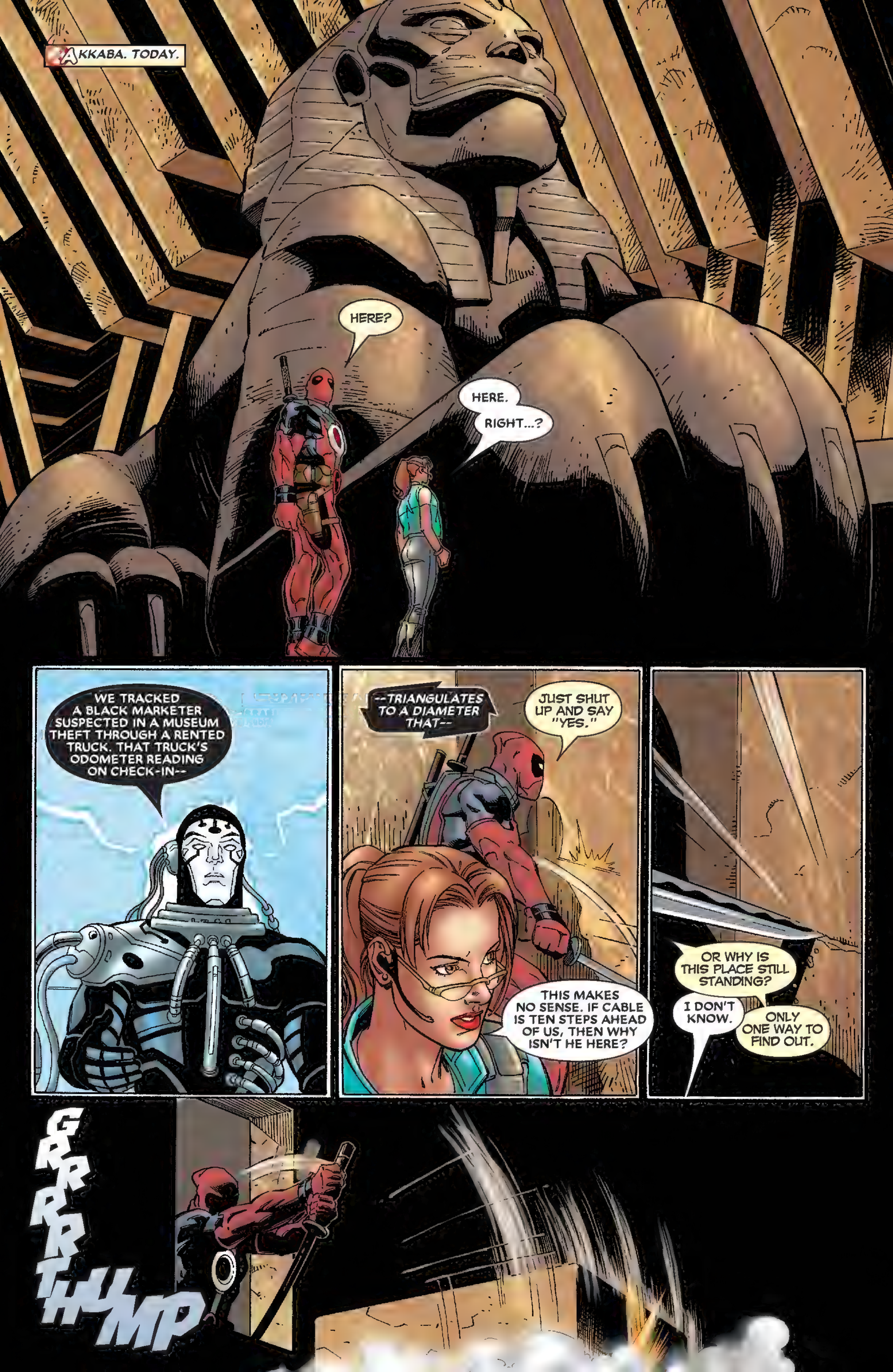

SOMEWHERE IN AKKABA.
TODAY.
I HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT DAY OFTEN.
IT HAS BEEN A *VERY* LONG LIFE, WITH TIME TO CONTEMPLATE MUCH...
...AND PLAN FOR THAT MUCH MORE.
I STILL THINK OF THAT DAY OFTEN...
...ESPECIALLY IN THE DAYS BEFORE ANOTHER *RISING*...

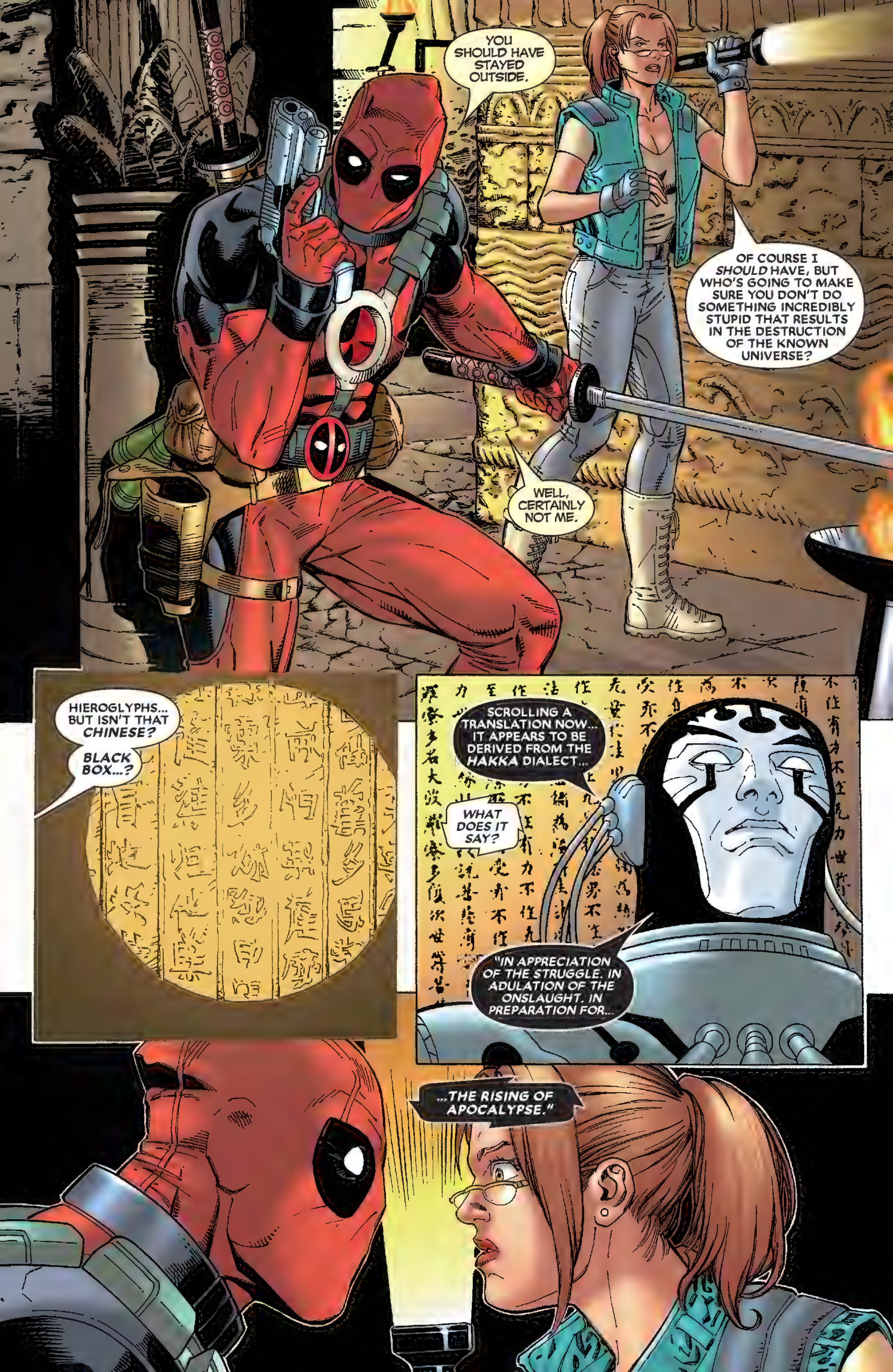

PROVIDENCE.
CABLE'S ISLAND SANCTUARY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THREE WEEKS AGO.
YOU KNOW, "WHO'S THE BOSS" IS EVEN FUNNIER WHEN IT'S TRANSLATED INTO FARSI ...
SO WHY'S EVERYONE GATHERED IN CABLE'S INFONET CHAMBER AND WHY DID YOU GUYS FLY ME IN FROM MANHATTAN IF HE'S NOT EVEN HERE?
HEY, "THE 700 CLUB"! WHY SOMEONE HASN'T ELECTED PAT ROBERTSON PRESIDENT YET IS BEYOND ME...
NATHAN HAS BEEN MISSING FOR TWO WEEKS WITH NO CONTACT.
BLACK BOX HAS SCOURED THE CURRENTS OF THE INFOSTREAM, BUT NATHAN'S TRAIL IS NEGLIGIBLE.
OUR CHIEF OF SECURITY, JOHANN KRIEK, MAINTAINS HIS OLD INTERPOL CONTACTS. THEY'VE INFORMED HIM THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MUSEUM THEFTS IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS.
OKAY, I FOLLOWED YOU AS FAR AS NATE BEING ON THE GOODYEAR BLIMP, BUT NOW YOU LOST ME.
GOOD... YEAR...?
...
I SAID NEGLIGIBLE, YOU IDIOT, NOT DIRIGIBLE!
OH LORD, WHY WAS IT SO EASY FOR ME TO FOLLOW YOUR TWISTED MIND...?
IRENE MERRYWEATHER, FORMER GIRL REPORTER, NOW CABLE'S CHIEF OF STAFF--WE WERE DESTINED TO FIND GREAT LOVE.

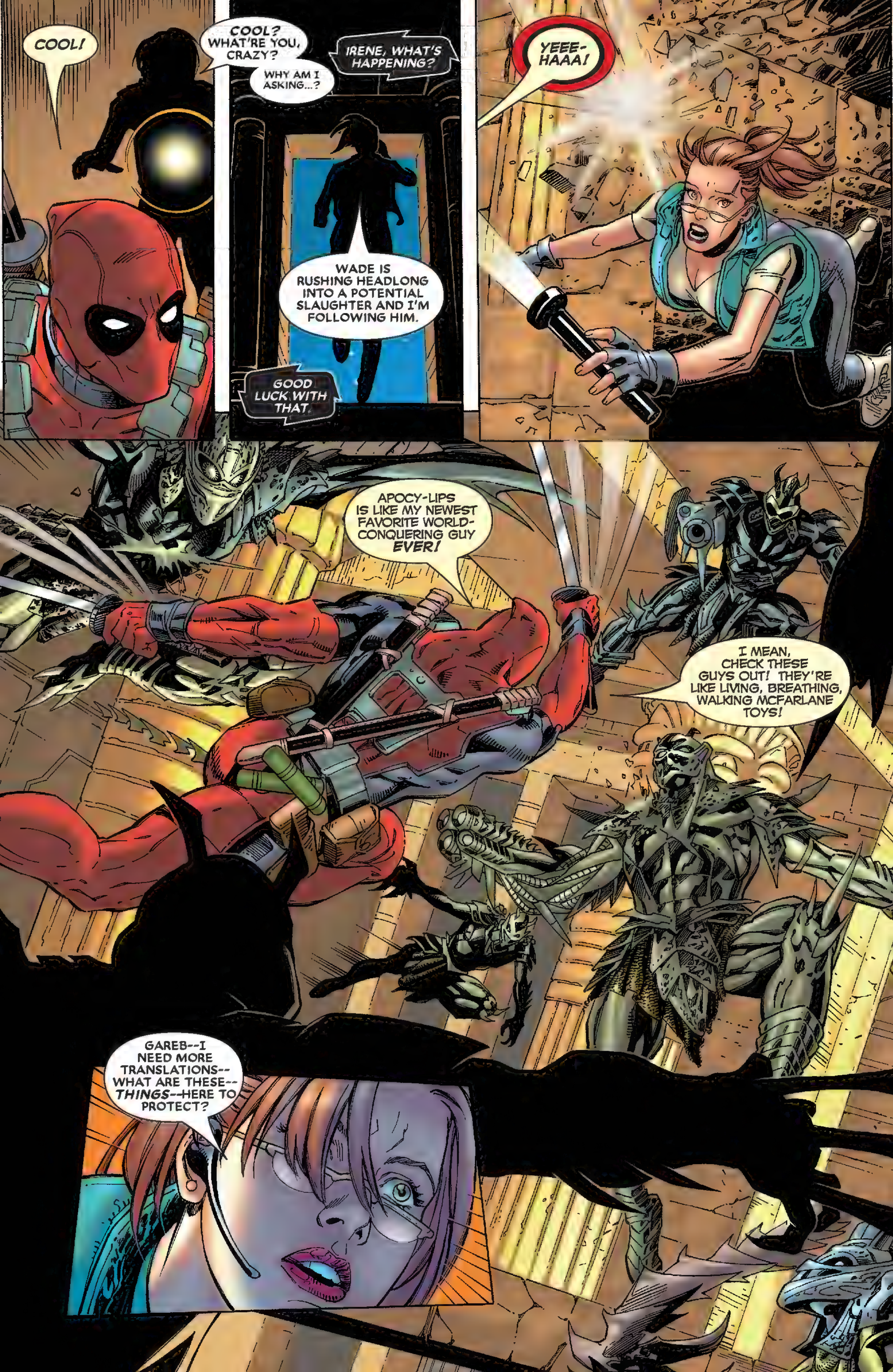

SO...YOU NEED MY HELP? IT'S OKAY TO SAY IT, Y'KNOW.
I KNOW IT IS, WADE.
SO SAY IT.
EXCUSE ME?
SAY YOU NEED MY HELP TO FIND NATE AND I'LL HELP YOU.
I NEED YOUR HELP, WADE.
NO PROB, LOOK HOW EASY IT IS--*BODYSLIDE BY TWO!*
UHM...WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *MUTUAL TELEPORTING* SCHTICK NATE AND I HAD GOING?
WHEN ONE OF US WOULD SAY "BODYSLIDE BY TWO!" AND WE'D BE JOINED TOGETHER INSTANTLY IN TIME AND SPACE?
REMEMBER...?
USELESS...
BLACK BOX...?
NATHAN WAS TRACKING THE MOVEMENT OF VARIOUS STOLEN ARTIFACTS.
I CAN PROVIDE A VERY FAINT TRAIL TO FOLLOW.
BUT WHY? AND WHERE IS HE NOW?
SOUNDS LIKE YOU 'N' ME ARE GOIN' ON A ROAD TRIP!
⸗SIGH⸗
I'LL PACK THE MASSAGE OIL...

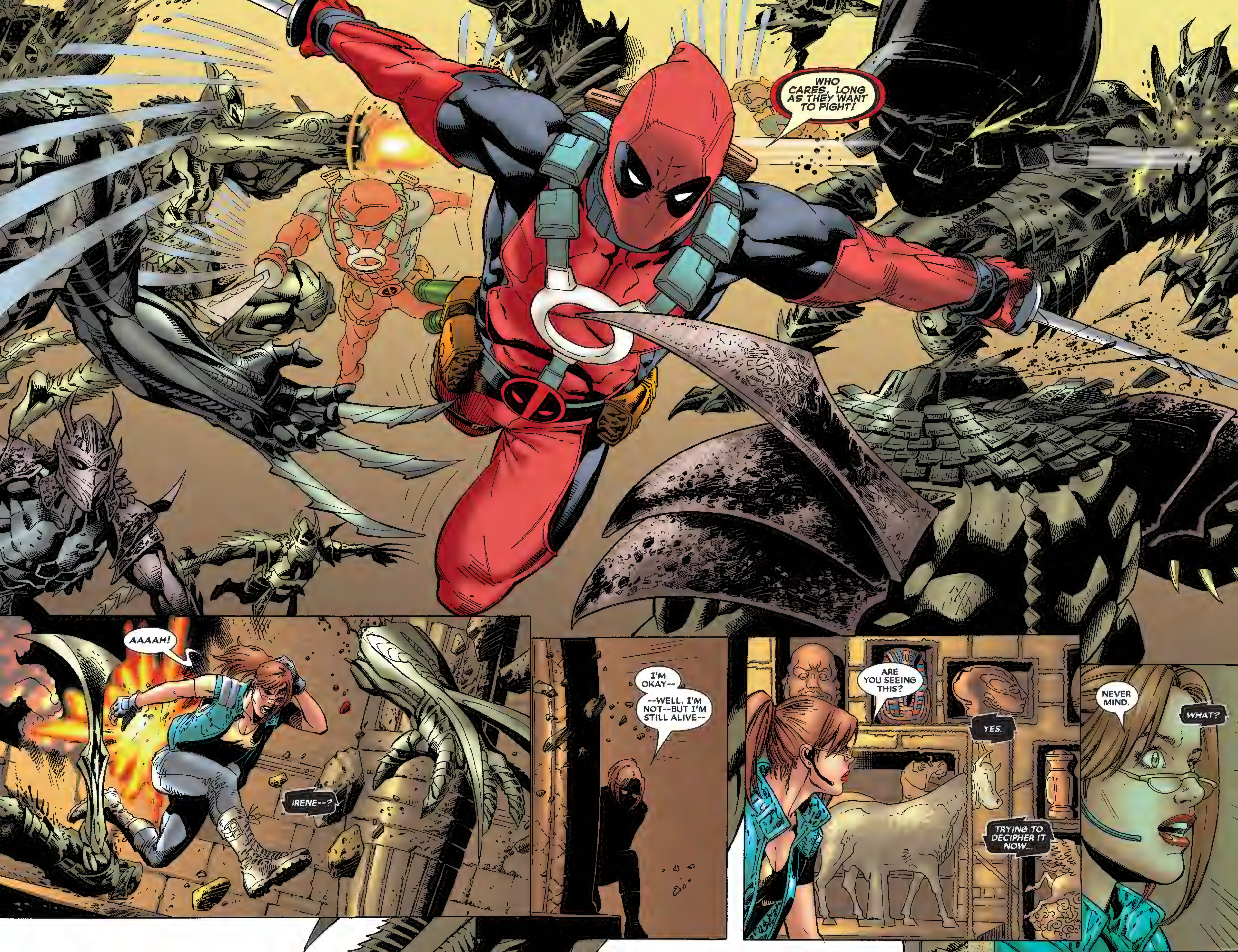

YEARS PASSED BEFORE THE TRAVELER CROSSED MY PATH AGAIN...
PLEASE--WE ARE BUT HUMBLE MERCHANTS, CONSIGNED TO CARRY GOODS TO A VILLAGE AT THE FOOT OF THE HO-LO SHAN MOUNTAINS--
TAKE IT ALL--JUST SPARE OUR LIVES!
THE TWO AREN'T MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE...

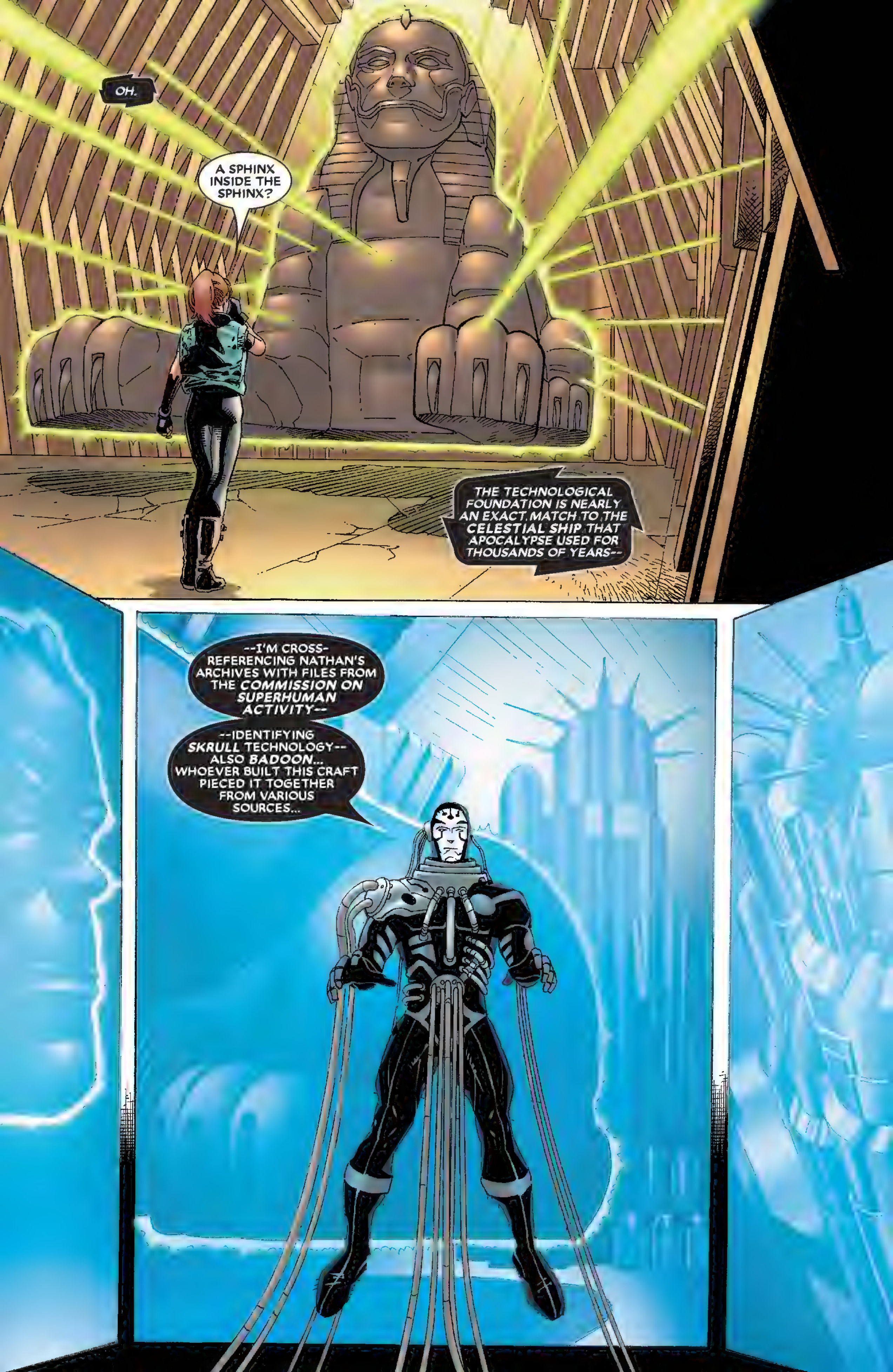

PLEASE--WE KNOW NOT WHAT THIS STRANGE CARGO IS ...
BUT WHAT YOU *DO* KNOW IS...
"...WHERE IT'S GOING AND WHO IT'S BEING DELIVERED TO..."
YOU ARE LATE!
THEY STOPPED TO PICK UP A WEARY TRAVELER...
AH--
SO I'M CURIOUS...
...HOW DID YOU OBTAIN TECHNOLOGY FROM THE *FUTURE?*
YOU ARE QUITE MISTAKEN, TRAVELER, THESE MATERIALS WERE ACQUIRED...
...FROM THE *ANCIENT PAST!*

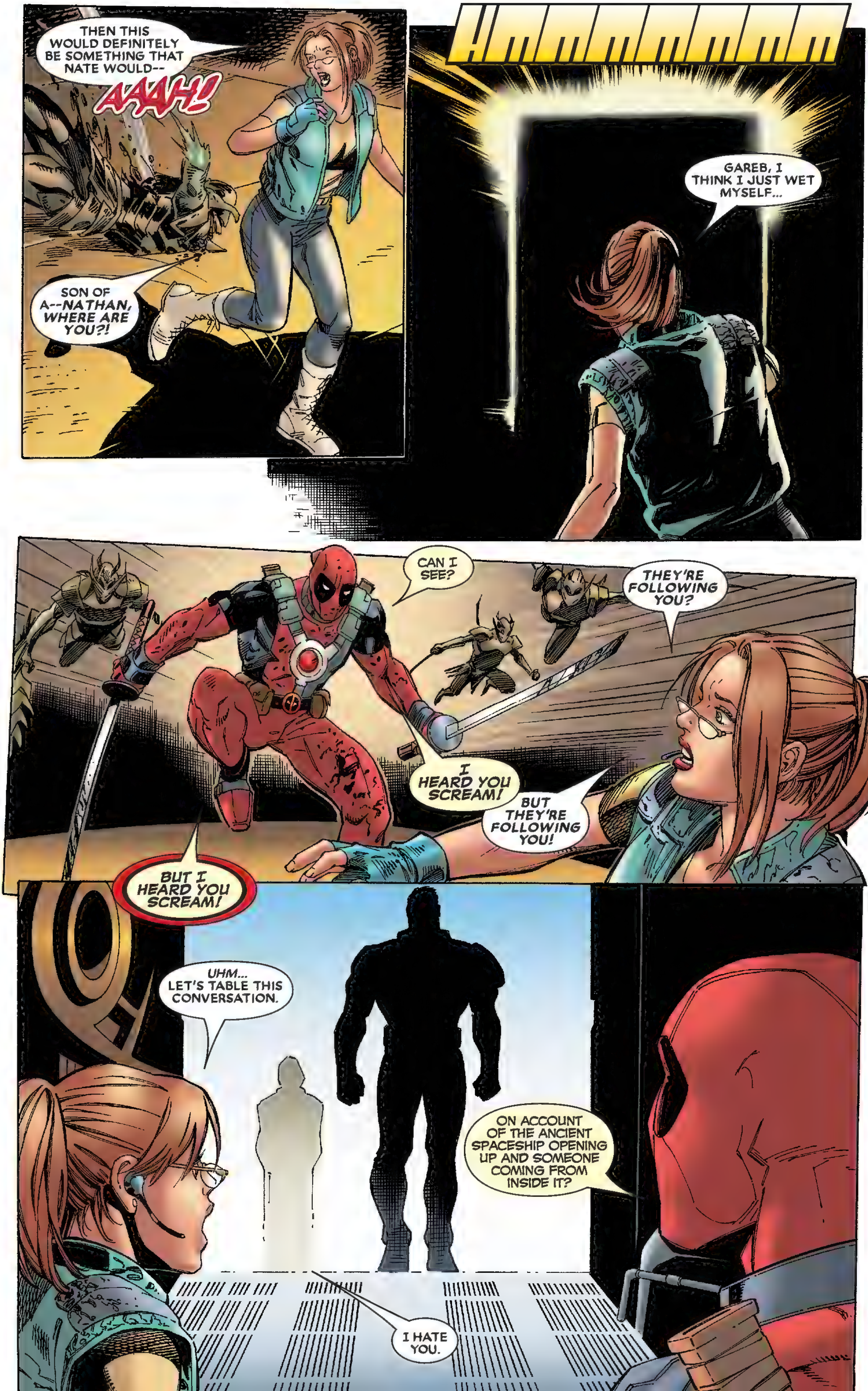

AKKABA. TODAY.
HERE?
HERE.
RIGHT...?
WE TRACKED A BLACK MARKETER SUSPECTED IN A MUSEUM THEFT THROUGH A RENTED TRUCK. THAT TRUCK'S ODOMETER READING ON CHECK-IN--
--TRIANGULATES TO A DIAMETER THAT--
JUST SHUT UP AND SAY "YES."
THIS MAKES NO SENSE. IF CABLE IS TEN STEPS AHEAD OF US, THEN WHY ISN'T HE HERE?
OR WHY IS THIS PLACE STILL STANDING?
I DON'T KNOW.
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
GRRRRTHUMP

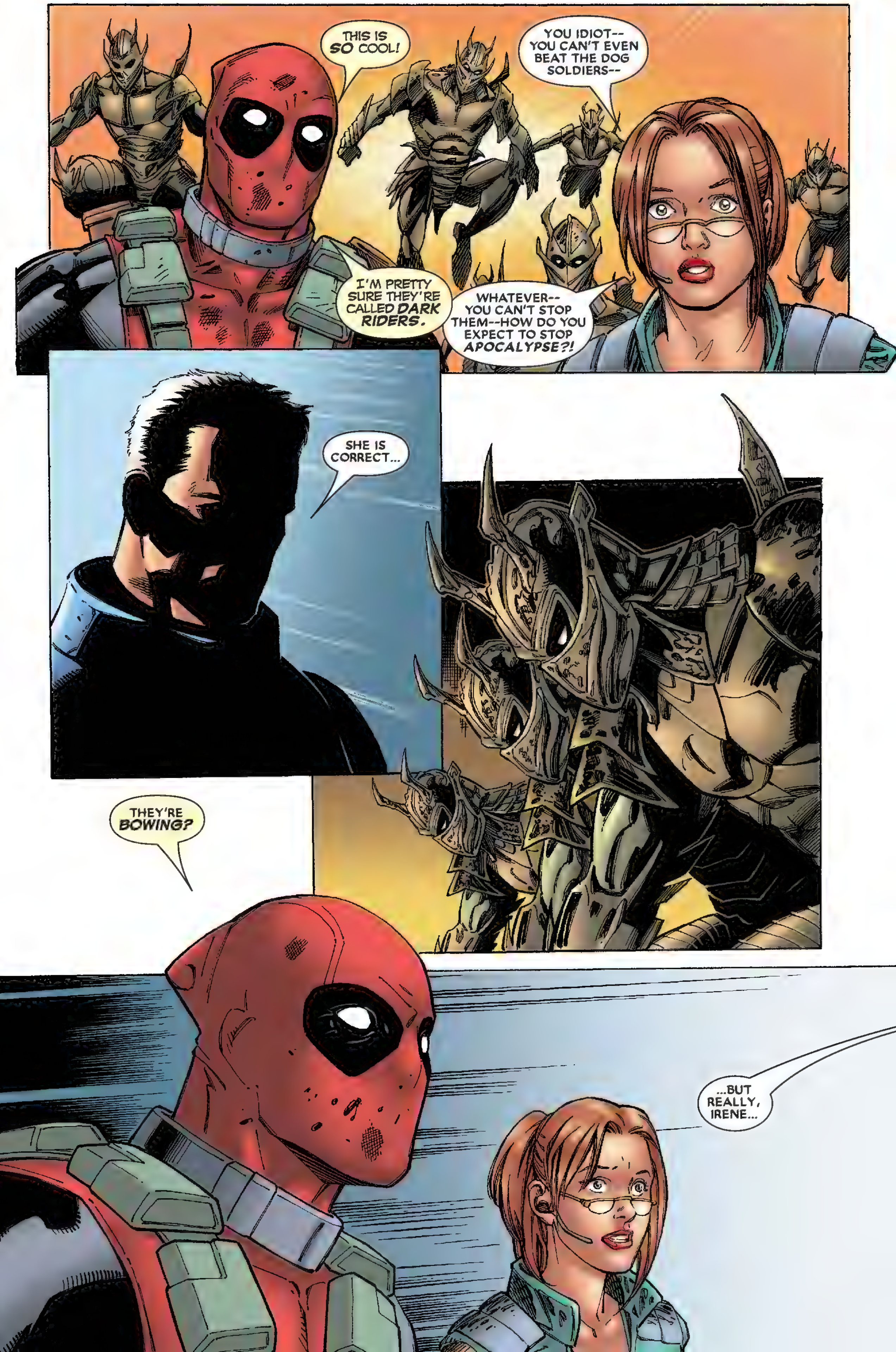

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED OUTSIDE.
OF COURSE I *SHOULD* HAVE, BUT WHO'S GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING INCREDIBLY STUPID THAT RESULTS IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE?
WELL, CERTAINLY NOT ME.
HIEROGLYPHS... BUT ISN'T THAT *CHINESE?*
BLACK BOX...?
SCROLLING A TRANSLATION NOW... IT APPEARS TO BE DERIVED FROM THE *HAKKA* DIALECT...
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
"IN APPRECIATION OF THE STRUGGLE. IN ADULATION OF THE ONSLAUGHT. IN PREPARATION FOR...
...THE RISING OF APOCALYPSE."

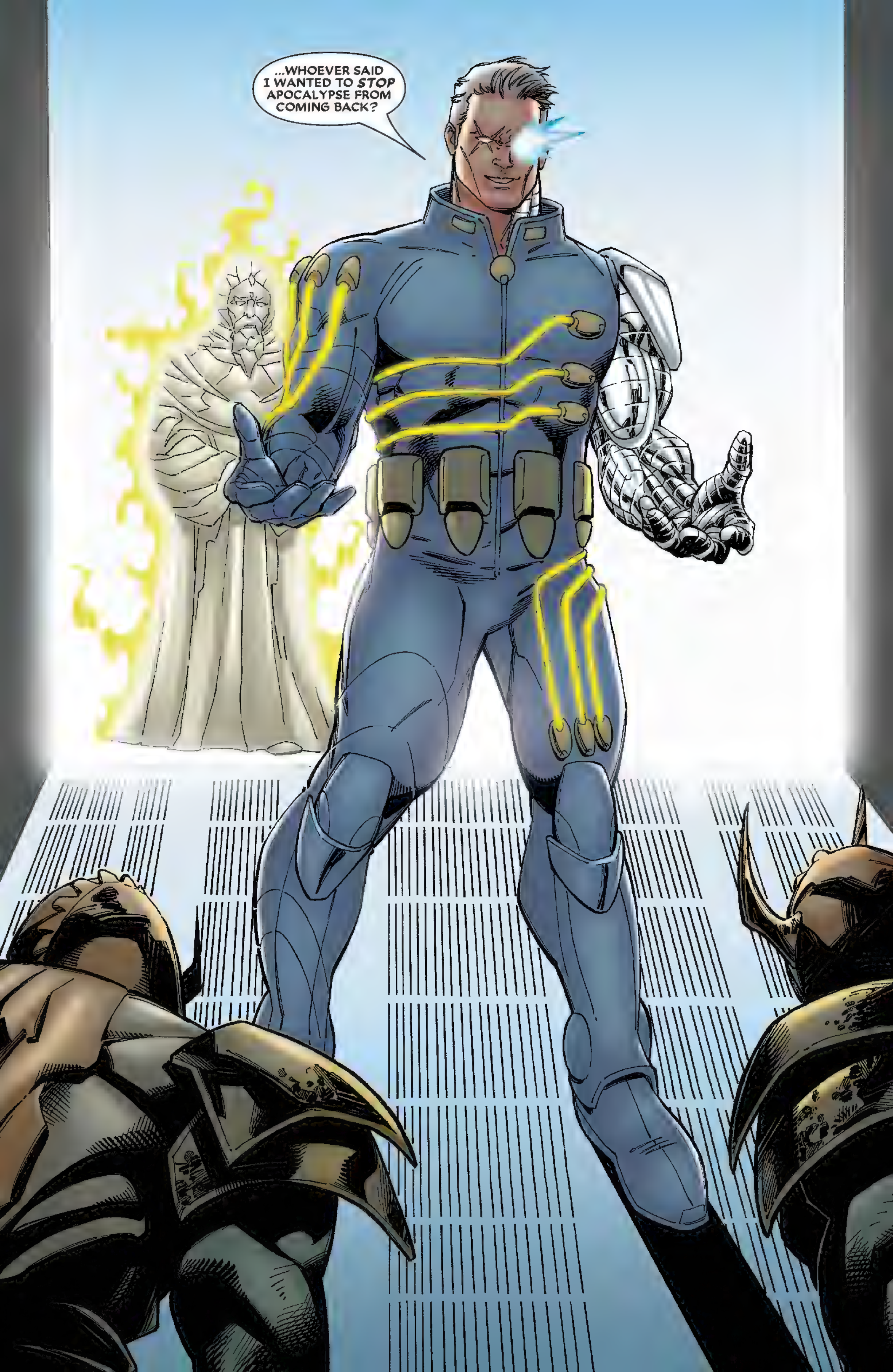

COOL!
COOL? WHAT'RE YOU, CRAZY?
WHY AM I ASKING...?
IRENE, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WADE IS RUSHING HEADLONG INTO A POTENTIAL SLAUGHTER AND I'M FOLLOWING HIM.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
YEEE-HAAA!
APOCY-LIPS IS LIKE MY NEWEST FAVORITE WORLD-CONQUERING GUY *EVER!*
I MEAN, CHECK THESE GUYS OUT! THEY'RE LIKE LIVING, BREATHING, WALKING MCFARLANE TOYS!
GAREB--I NEED MORE TRANSLATIONS--WHAT ARE THESE--*THINGS*--HERE TO PROTECT?


WHO CARES, LONG AS THEY WANT TO FIGHT!
AAAAH!
IRENE--?
I'M OKAY--
--WELL, I'M NOT--BUT I'M STILL ALIVE--
ARE YOU SEEING THIS?
YES.
TRYING TO DECIPHER IT NOW...
NEVER MIND.
WHAT?


OH.
A SPHINX INSIDE THE SPHINX?
THE TECHNOLOGICAL FOUNDATION IS NEARLY AN EXACT MATCH TO THE ***CELESTIAL SHIP*** THAT APOCALYPSE USED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS--
--I'M CROSS-REFERENCING NATHAN'S ARCHIVES WITH FILES FROM THE ***COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY***--
--IDENTIFYING ***SKRULL*** TECHNOLOGY-- ALSO ***BADOON***... WHOEVER BUILT THIS CRAFT PIECED IT TOGETHER FROM VARIOUS SOURCES...


THEN THIS WOULD DEFINITELY BE SOMETHING THAT NATE WOULD--
AAAH!
SON OF A--NATHAN, WHERE ARE YOU?!
HMMMMMMMM
GAREB, I THINK I JUST WET MYSELF...
CAN I SEE?
THEY'RE FOLLOWING YOU?
I HEARD YOU SCREAM!
BUT THEY'RE FOLLOWING YOU!
BUT I HEARD YOU SCREAM!
UHM... LET'S TABLE THIS CONVERSATION.
ON ACCOUNT OF THE ANCIENT SPACESHIP OPENING UP AND SOMEONE COMING FROM INSIDE IT?
I HATE YOU.


THIS IS *SO* COOL!
YOU IDIOT-- YOU CAN'T EVEN BEAT THE DOG SOLDIERS--
I'M PRETTY SURE THEY'RE CALLED *DARK RIDERS.*
WHATEVER-- YOU CAN'T STOP THEM--HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO STOP *APOCALYPSE?!*
SHE IS CORRECT...
THEY'RE *BOWING?*
...BUT REALLY, IRENE...


...WHOEVER SAID I WANTED TO *STOP* APOCALYPSE FROM COMING BACK?

DEAR DEADPOOL

Hello there, boys and girls and hermaphrodites from all over the world, Deadpool here and ready to have some legal fun! Time for the bestest part of any issue that focuses so much on Cable and mutant-stuff – the letters page! Which I answer! Yay for me. Take it away, *Steve*...

Dear C & D crew;

How do you pronounce "*AAAAAAAAAAA*?" I'm tired of people asking how to pronounce Fabian's last name. It seems like there's at least one person every month. As someone whose own wife wouldn't take his name because SHE can't pronounce it, I can empathize with Fabian's plight somewhat.

That being said, I think the book's great. At first I assumed it was a six-issue miniseries. I was surprised when it kept going. Now I hope it never ends. This is the most fun mutant book going right now. I do have a few questions/suggestions:

1) How do you pronounce Askani?

2) Since you're bringing back obscure but cool characters, how about Tempo from the Mutant Front? I always thought she was kinda cool. Maybe it was the helmet.

3) How about some characters from Cable's past? I mean, from his past in the future? I mean...You know what I mean.

4) How do you pronounce Ch'Vayre?

5) How do you pronounce Boak?

6) Am I the only one who remembers Boak?

7) How about Thanos? Follow me on this. Death loves Deadpool, Thanos loves Death, Cable is obligated to protect Deadpool from Thanos when he shows up. Cable already fought the Silver Surfer, this could be cool.

8) How about some more characters from Deadpool's past like that bi-polar cyborg Kane, or Copycat (she may already be on the island . . .)

9) How about some more Cable-centered stories? The book seems kind of Deadpool-heavy lately.

So, until we find out the new Mutant Liberation Front leader turns out to be Malcolm X, make mine Marvel!

Steve Fuson
Pleasanton, CA

How the heck do you pronounce that last name? Rhymes with "futon"--? Or is it like a Human Torch thing, "Fuse On!" Hmm. Oooh, numbered questions!

1) Ah-s-kahn-ee. We think.

2) Tempo is always a fave among the "Geeks and their long-forgotten characters" club. And it *haddabe* the helmet, `cause that's exactly why I don't like her -- she was a big silver phallic symbol and I'm not secure enough in my own sexuality to deal with that.

3) We've shown a few of Cable's past future buddies here and there, but really, they are so totally lame, that why bother?

4) It sounds like you have a ferret stuck in your throat there, Stevie-o.

5) I sense a running theme here. Hooked on Phonics for Comic Dweebs.

6) No. Fabian remembers him, too. But... you know, that ain't exactly puttin' you in exalted company or nothin'...

7) Good point. I'll be behind Nate every step of the way on that one. Thanos is big and scares me with those nasty acne scars on his chin. Like friggin' canyons, they are.

8)I think they're all dead. I think pretty much any character Nicieza worked on in '94 is dead now. Or should be. Except me.

9) Wow, everyone an' their cousins' always complaining the book is too *Cable*-centric. Just goes to show, you're all incapable of counting pages and the book is called Cable & Deadpool.

Dear Deapool,

Wow. 25 issues... Congrats. Ok on to business...

When are you going to get more time away from that Cable 'tard and get back to the way things were a few years ago? You know: dating tall, blonde, she-mercs in cowgirl outfits, laughing at doorknobs, annoying the @#%&! out of Taskmaster, defending Bea Arthur's good name, and beating down Sabretooth with sporks! (Spork is a GREAT word!)

Oh, wait. You can still do that now anyway, right? You just have to distract ol' Nate with a Paris Hilton video...

Next bit of business... WHEN THE @$%&! ARE WE GOING TO SEE A DEADPOOL MOVIE?!?!?!?! They're just waiting until the time is right, then they'll gather Bladey, Wolvie, Spidey, Punish... um... y, Hulkie, Daredevilie and Torchie and have them come after you 'en masse.

Keep 'em comin'. I always need something to read while at work.

Mark, Pittsburgh, PA

Yeah, I'm figuring you're totally contributing to the economy there, Mark-y. I'm tired of all these movie questions. Hollywood is a very lengthy and frustrating creative and financial process. Just had lunch with Avi Arad last week, said, "Avi, baby, how can I be in turnaround when I wasn't even facing forward?" He said I was on Marvel's production schedule right after the sequel to *Howard the Duck*, so, fingers crossed there, lookin' good now...

Dear Mr. Pool,

How are things going? I've gotta say that I love your work. It's too bad that your "works" are not too much in the way of available. Why is it that there are no Deadpool *Classics* or Deadpool *Visionaries*? Where's Fabian's *Marvel Visionaries* book? Or Joe Kelly's for that matter? As hard as it is to find that stuff in single issue form, those books would sell like Hasselhoff albums in Germany. Couldn't you start something from this very letters page to gather all of your fans and march on Marvel? Or just do like one of those signature thingies if you don't feel like going to extremes?

I have some numbered questions coming but first I just wanna gush and say that your book is great. Everything is spot on from the writing to the art. I hope more people discover it. Now some numbered questions designed to get to know you better.

1) I noticed you carry a lot of ninja gear. Are you a real ninja or do you just pretend like Michael Dudikoff?

2) Was it tough carrying all those heavy-looking guns in the X-Force books? I mostly ask because your ankles looked very thin back then.

3) If you had the choice between your sword and a lightsaber, which would you choose?

4) Is Juggernaut as big as he looks in person?

5) When you had the Rhino shrunk and in a fish tank how often did you have to feed him? I have a shrunken Abomination at home and I'm not sure how much to feed him.

6) Do you think the Ultimate version of you will suck?

7) Do you think Cap is still angry about you kicking him in the no-no spot way back when?

8) Will you ever have musical guest stars in your book much like Scooby-Doo had Mama Cass and such? If so, I think you should see if Clutch or GWAR will pop in. They seem like fun guys.

Bye for now.

Jonnie C. from Enfield CT.

We were laughing so hard at the Fabian *Visionaries* idea that we nearly missed the great Hasselhoff and Dudikoff jokes. Man, Jonnie, bud, my eyes are *still* tearing. Oooh, numbered questions!

1) I am a real ninja. Serious. Trained and everything. Maybe there's a story to tell there sometime, you know, when the book is less Cable-centric.

2) I was originally a very finely-ankled lad, but luckily, through a regimen of improved anatomy drawings, my ankles are capable of supporting even the most outlandish of Chiclet guns.

3) Dang, that's a tough one. My sword is my sword, but a lightsaber. "Use the force, Luke." Hmm... wait, by my sword, you are talking about my blade, right? And by my blade, you are talking about...

4) Frickin' huge, man. Makes Shaq look like DJ Qualls.

5) Just a pinch of hermit crab food once a day. Should do the trick.

6) No way, no how. Ultimate books rock. Unless of course, they cross me with the Black Hole. Then maybe it will suck. That's a joke only ten fans of the original *Defenders* will ever get...

7) Nah. Cap is above that kind of pettiness. He's the ginchiest Boy Scout ever. Hopefully, he'll get the chance to return the favor one day soon. We haven't had enough Avengers characters showing up here lately...

8) You know, we're a two-dimensional comic book without sound. Translating musical guests is really, really tough. Remember when we tried it with that special Backstreet Boys issue? The high-pitched sounds of dread, panic, fear and mayhem really didn't translate well. Neither did their death-throes.

C & D Crew,

Cable & Deadpool. It's like a car crash or autopsy: you know it is going to be traumatic, but you just can't keep away...

Irene Merryweather fancies herself the chief of staff on Providence? All she does is stand behind and to the side of Cable and talk a lot! If that is the only job criterion, wouldn't Deadpool be much better suited to the job?

It is a huge shame to see Patrick leave the book, but his art really is perfect for ol' Shellhead's book. Why can't he do both? If money's an issue, I'm sure a few dollars could be saved by getting rid of Cable, Deadpool or that Nicieza guy...

I'd say 'don't change a thing', but since you're already changing artists, I'm sure a few requests won't be totally out of the question (and they're numbered)!

1) Can you PLEASE ask Deadpool to stay away from my dresser? I know he was the one who drew the 'map to Uranus' on all of my undergarments...

2) Can we PLEASE have an encounter between Deadpool and the joyful jade giant, the She-Hulk? She probably has no place on Providence, but then again, Deadpool has no place in a comic book.

Keep up the awesome work!

Adrian Watts, Melbourne, Australia

Don't think for one second we didn't consider bootin' Fabe's butt out the door if it meant keeping Patrick around. He draws me good and he can draw a jaw on Cable that would make Bill Cowher jealous.

Your question about Irene is a very good one. Just what *does* she do--other than keep looking fresher and fresher and making my heart go pitter-pat? We need to do an all-Irene Merryweather issue. All-Irene. All-nude. What, Nicole? Oh. Little misogyny slipped out there? Sorry. Oooh, numbered questions!

1) Dude, the map to Uranus has prob'ly been downloaded from MapQuest so many times it's practically got its own signs on the Interstate.

2) Hmm. Me n' Shulkie? Could be. Fabe and Nifty Nine or Terrific Twenty (or whatever that list was that doesn't include Fabe on it) writer Dan Slott are good buds. Maybe if they ever talk about something other than Squirrel Girl...

***Fabian Visionaries*. Still cracks me up...**

That's it for this month, folks. Next month we continue our scintillating "Blood of Apocalypse" prequel. You know that means one thing, don'tcha-- KA-CHING! Yeah baby, we're *doubling our sales*--sixty copies, here we come!

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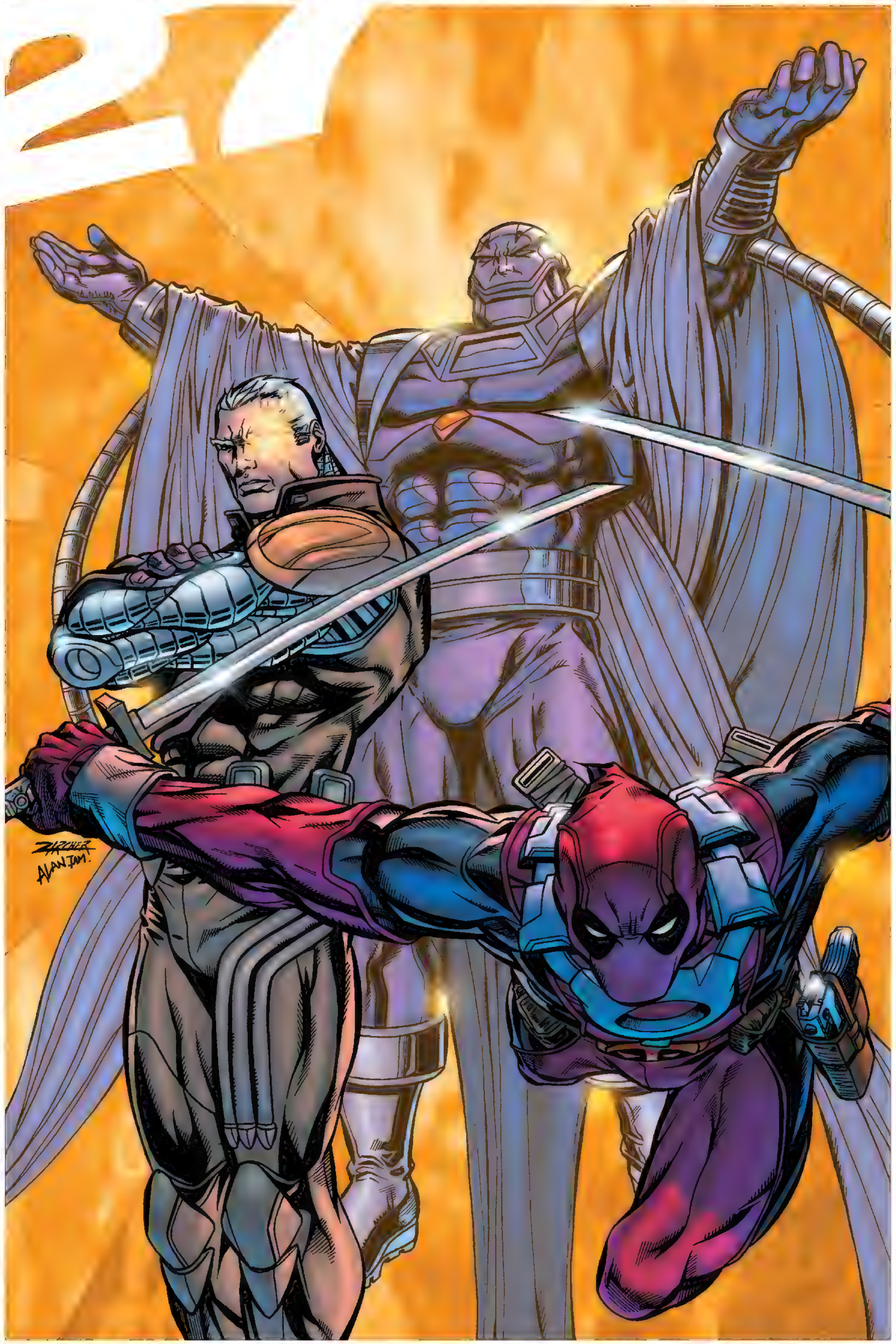
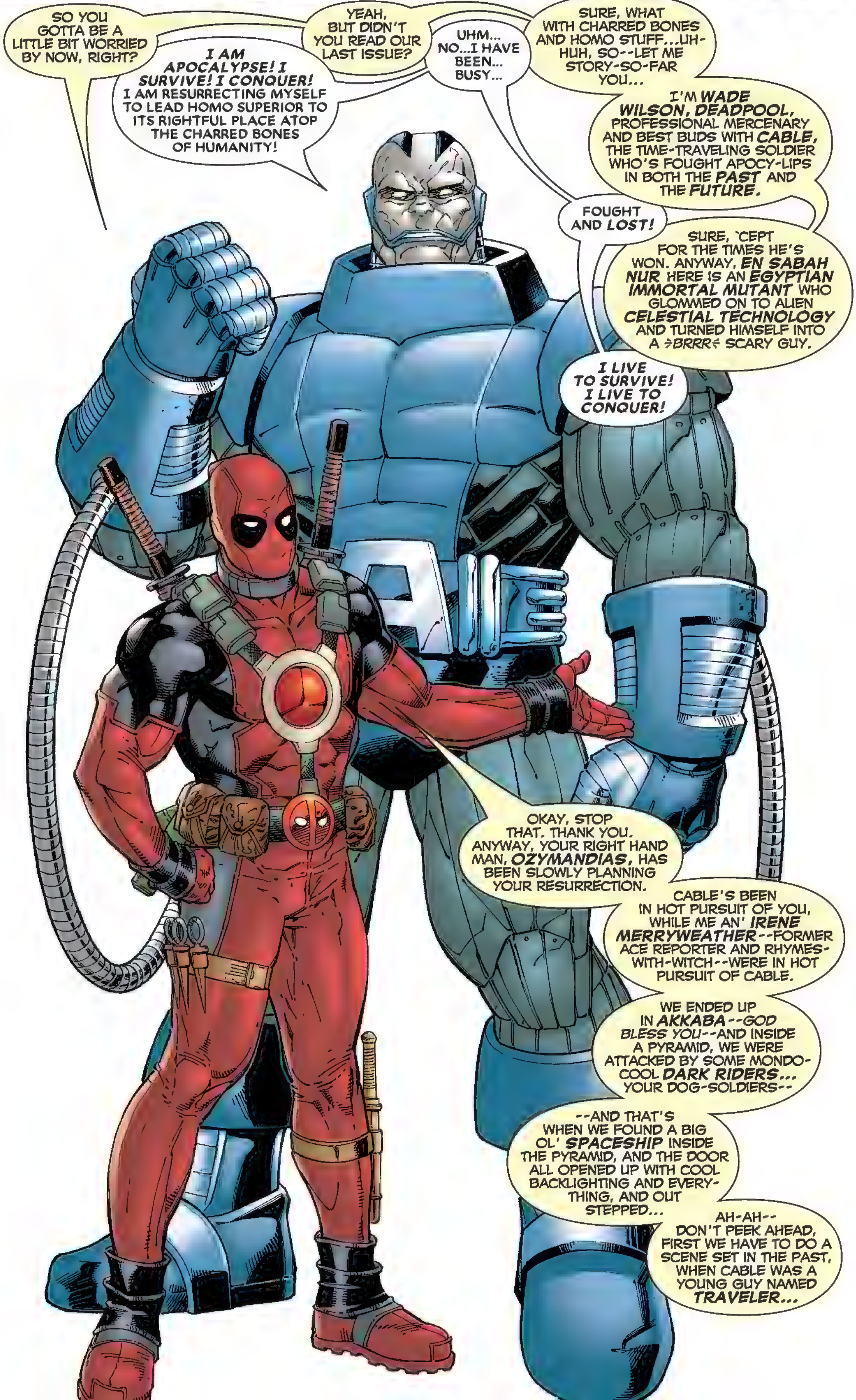
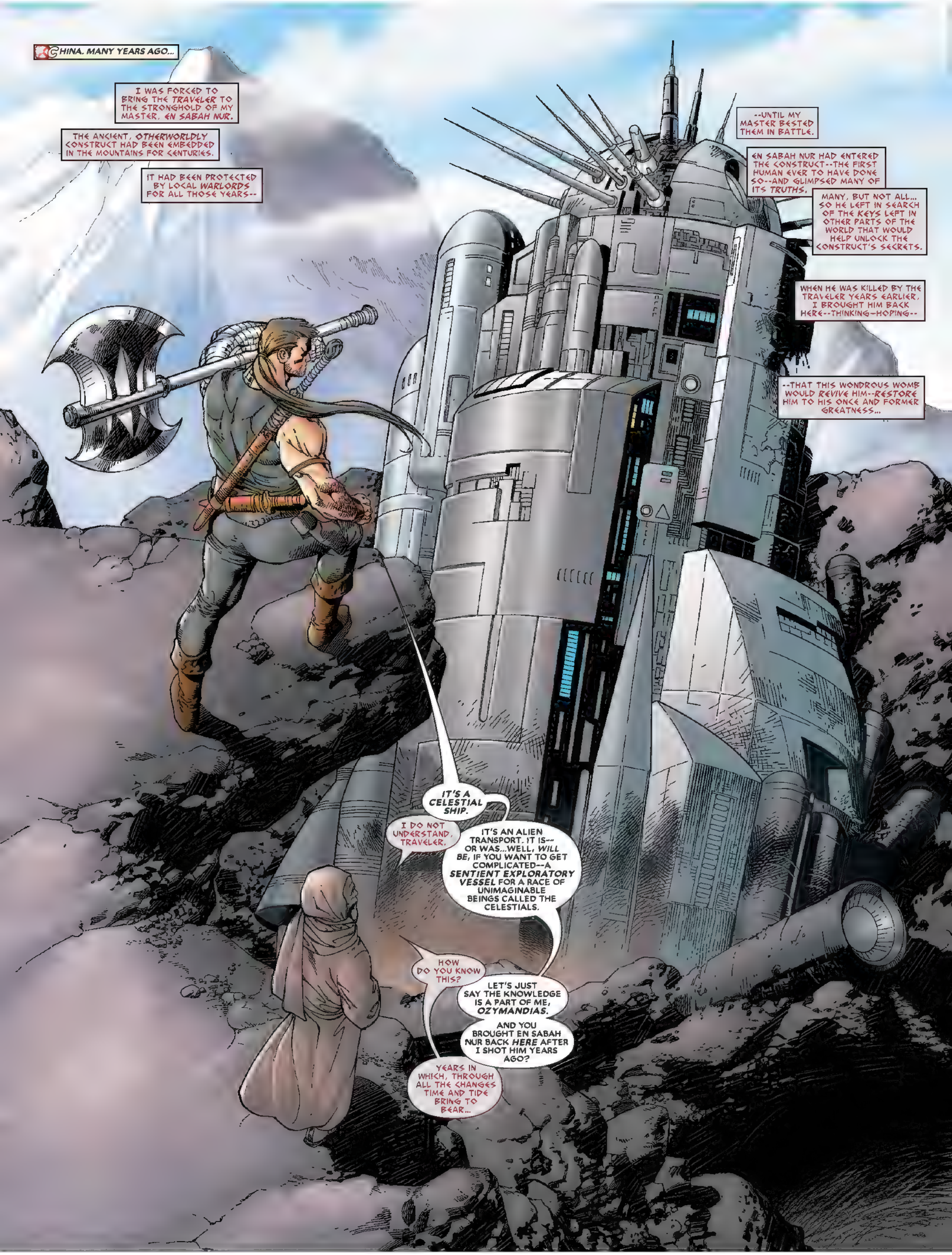
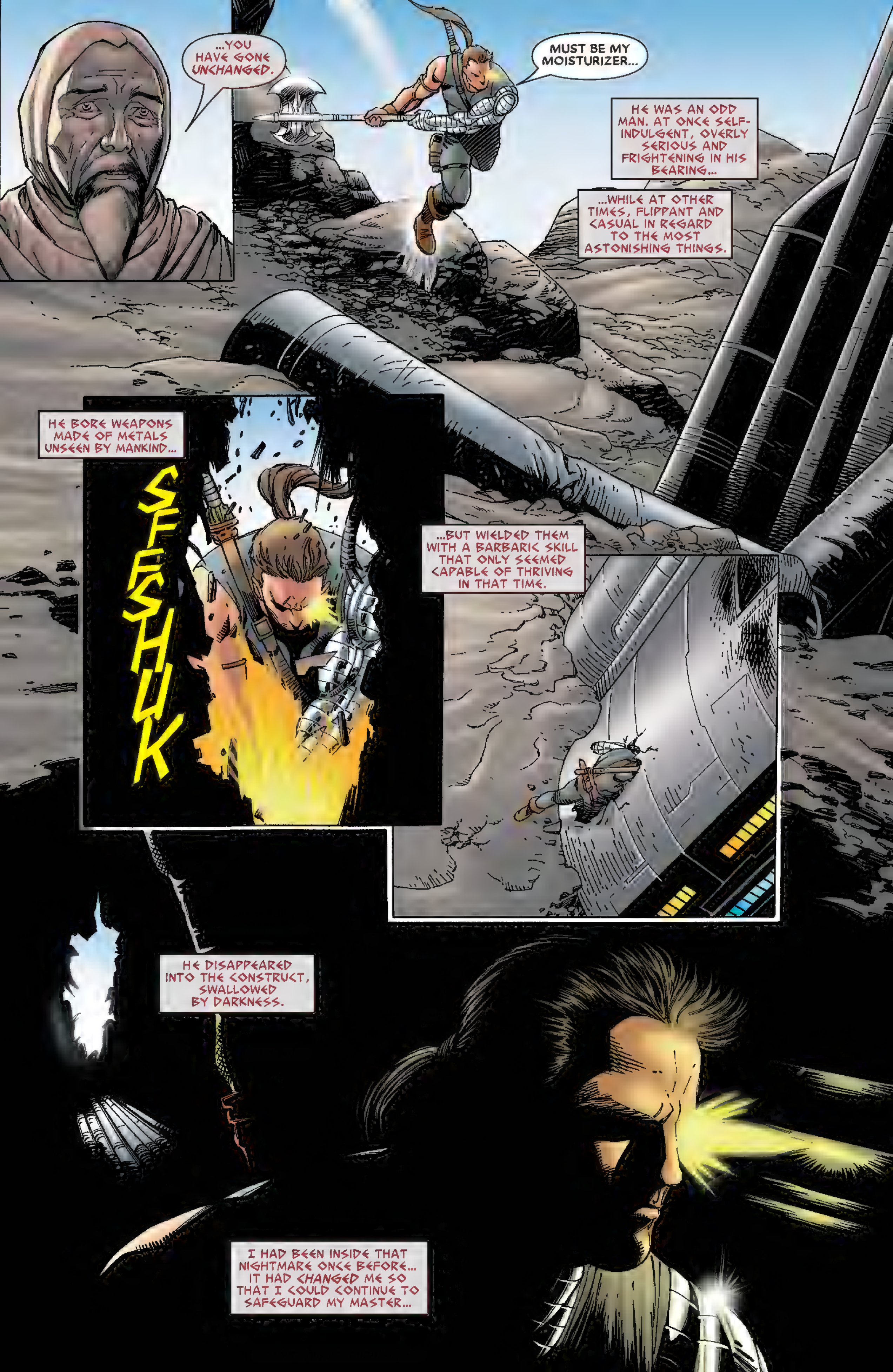
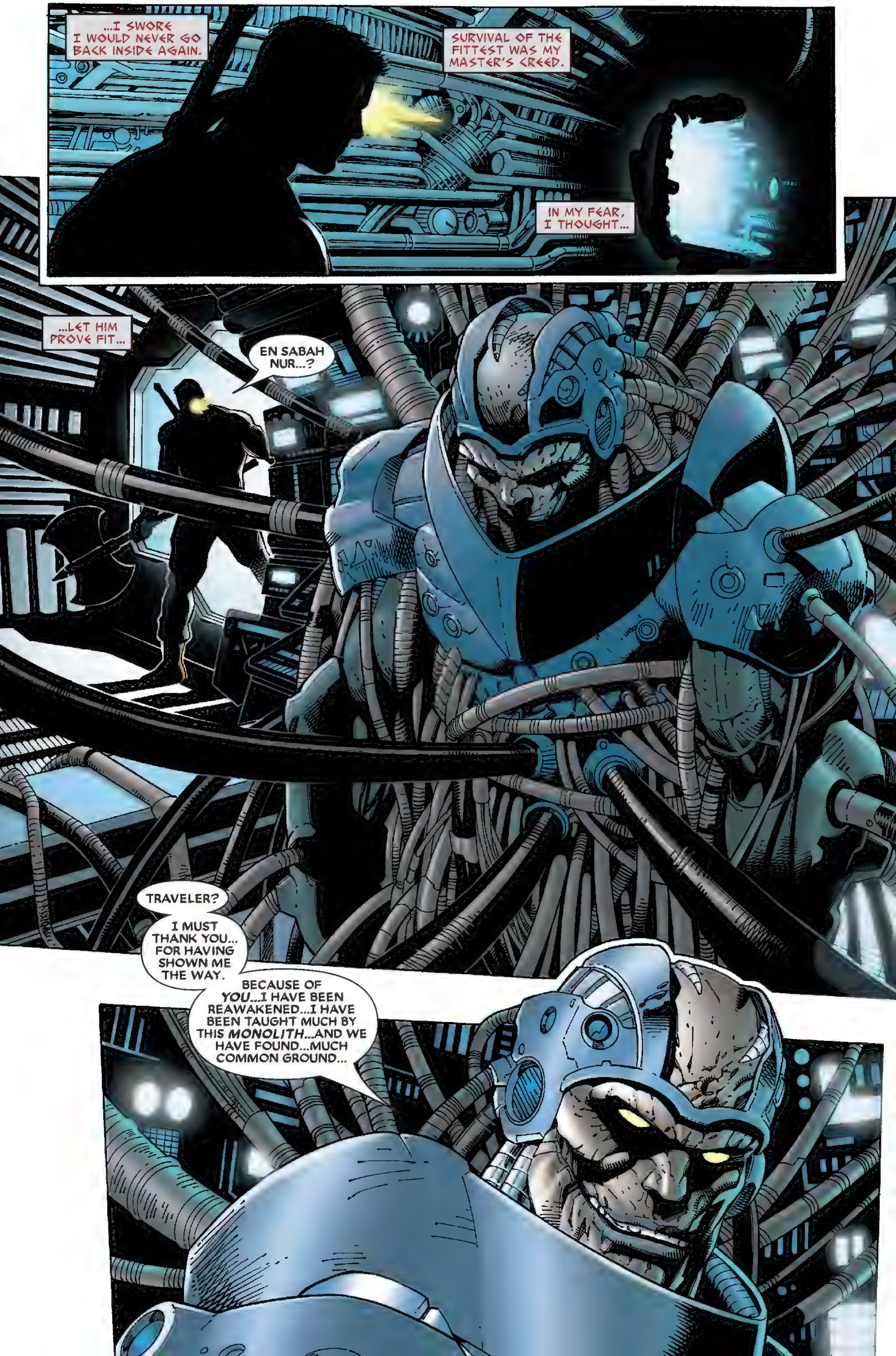

ZIRCHER
ALAN JAM!

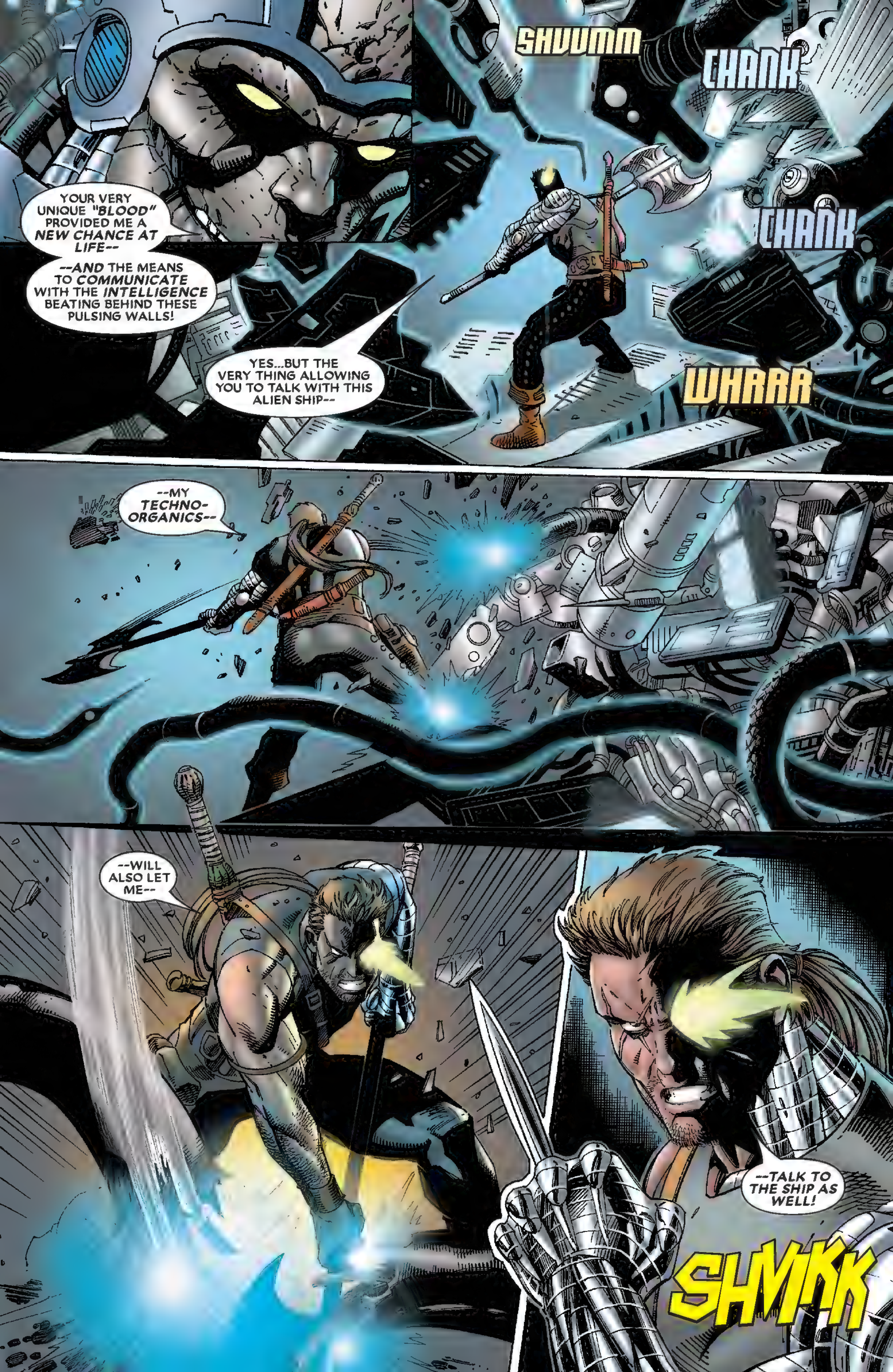
BORN AGAIN PART TWO WITH EYES OPEN

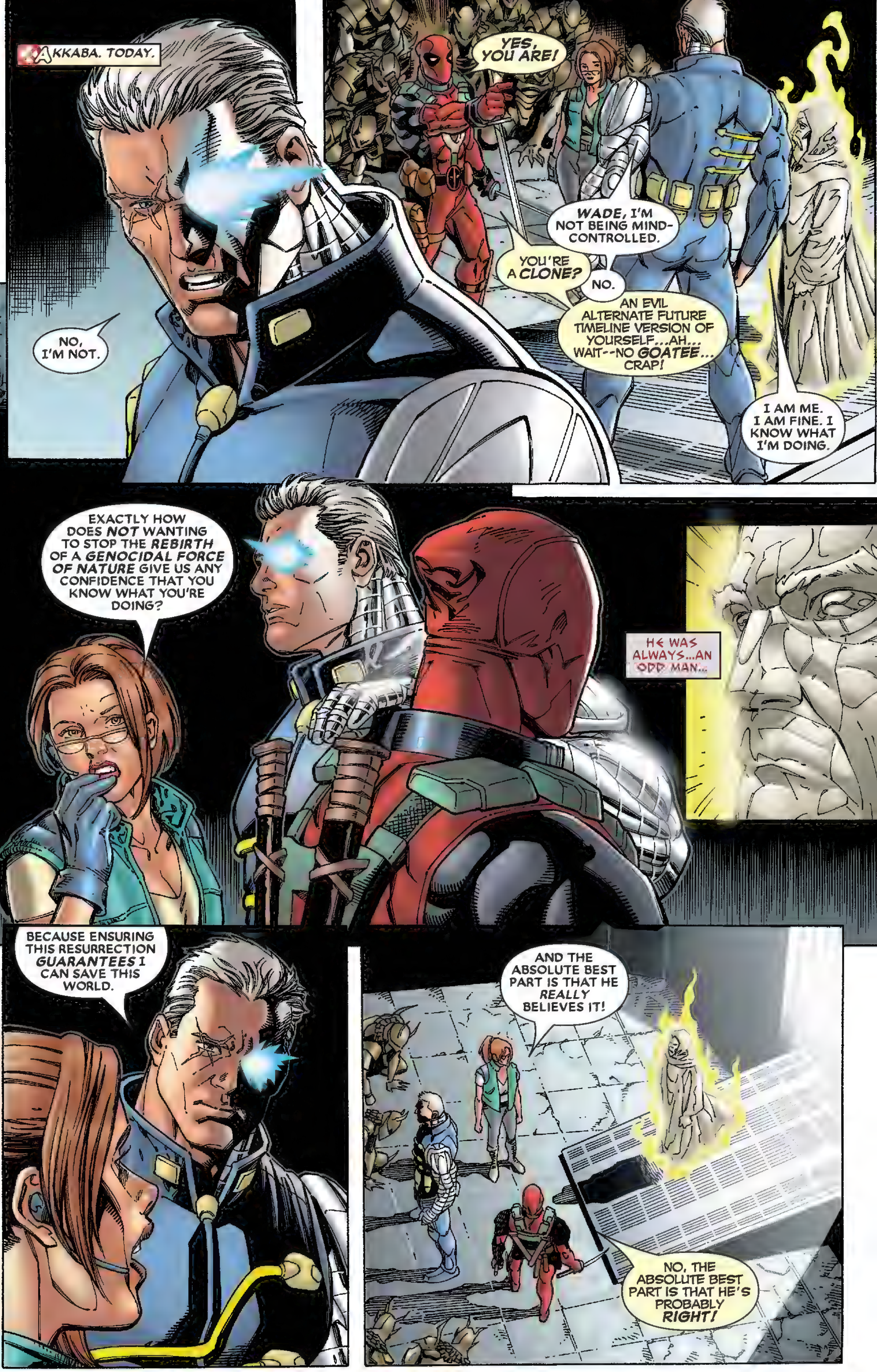

SO YOU GOTTA BE A LITTLE BIT WORRIED BY NOW, RIGHT?
I AM APOCALYPSE! I SURVIVE! I CONQUER! I AM RESURRECTING MYSELF TO LEAD HOMO SUPERIOR TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE ATOP THE CHARRED BONES OF HUMANITY!
YEAH, BUT DIDN'T YOU READ OUR LAST ISSUE?
UHM... NO...I HAVE BEEN... BUSY...
SURE, WHAT WITH CHARRED BONES AND HOMO STUFF...UH-HUH, SO--LET ME STORY-SO-FAR YOU...
I'M ***WADE WILSON, DEADPOOL,*** PROFESSIONAL MERCENARY AND BEST BUDS WITH ***CABLE,*** THE TIME-TRAVELING SOLDIER WHO'S FOUGHT APOCY-LIPS IN BOTH THE ***PAST*** AND THE ***FUTURE.***
FOUGHT AND ***LOST!***
SURE, 'CEPT FOR THE TIMES HE'S WON. ANYWAY, ***EN SABAH NUR*** HERE IS AN ***EGYPTIAN IMMORTAL MUTANT*** WHO GLOMMED ON TO ALIEN ***CELESTIAL TECHNOLOGY*** AND TURNED HIMSELF INTO A ⇒*BRRR*⇐ SCARY GUY.
I LIVE TO SURVIVE! I LIVE TO CONQUER!
OKAY, STOP THAT. THANK YOU. ANYWAY, YOUR RIGHT HAND MAN, ***OZYMANDIAS,*** HAS BEEN SLOWLY PLANNING YOUR RESURRECTION.
CABLE'S BEEN IN HOT PURSUIT OF YOU, WHILE ME AN' ***IRENE MERRYWEATHER***--FORMER ACE REPORTER AND RHYMES-WITH-WITCH--WERE IN HOT PURSUIT OF CABLE.
WE ENDED UP IN ***AKKABA***--*GOD BLESS YOU*--AND INSIDE A PYRAMID, WE WERE ATTACKED BY SOME MONDO-COOL ***DARK RIDERS...*** YOUR DOG-SOLDIERS--
--AND THAT'S WHEN WE FOUND A BIG OL' ***SPACESHIP*** INSIDE THE PYRAMID, AND THE DOOR ALL OPENED UP WITH COOL BACKLIGHTING AND EVERYTHING, AND OUT STEPPED...
AH-AH--DON'T PEEK AHEAD, FIRST WE HAVE TO DO A SCENE SET IN THE PAST, WHEN CABLE WAS A YOUNG GUY NAMED ***TRAVELER...***

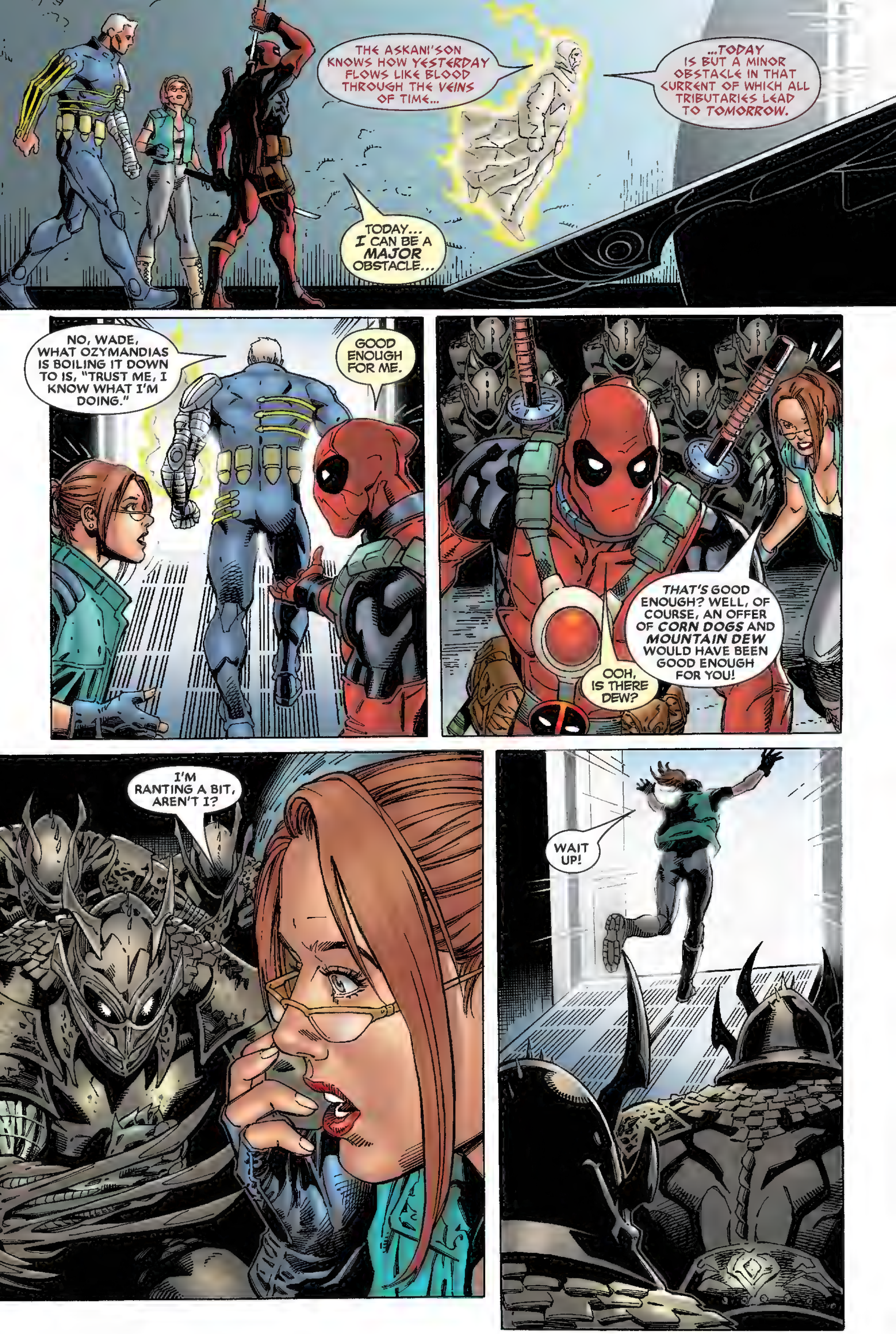

CHINA. MANY YEARS AGO...
I WAS FORCED TO BRING THE TRAVELER TO THE STRONGHOLD OF MY MASTER, EN SABAH NUR.
THE ANCIENT, OTHERWORLDLY CONSTRUCT HAD BEEN EMBEDDED IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR CENTURIES.
IT HAD BEEN PROTECTED BY LOCAL WARLORDS FOR ALL THOSE YEARS--
--UNTIL MY MASTER BESTED THEM IN BATTLE.
EN SABAH NUR HAD ENTERED THE CONSTRUCT--THE FIRST HUMAN EVER TO HAVE DONE SO--AND GLIMPSED MANY OF ITS TRUTHS.
MANY, BUT NOT ALL... SO HE LEFT IN SEARCH OF THE KEYS LEFT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD THAT WOULD HELP UNLOCK THE CONSTRUCT'S SECRETS.
WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY THE TRAVELER YEARS EARLIER, I BROUGHT HIM BACK HERE--THINKING--HOPING--
--THAT THIS WONDROUS WOMB WOULD REVIVE HIM--RESTORE HIM TO HIS ONCE AND FORMER GREATNESS...
IT'S A CELESTIAL SHIP.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, TRAVELER.
IT'S AN ALIEN TRANSPORT. IT IS-- OR WAS...WELL, WILL BE, IF YOU WANT TO GET COMPLICATED--A SENTIENT EXPLORATORY VESSEL FOR A RACE OF UNIMAGINABLE BEINGS CALLED THE CELESTIALS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
LET'S JUST SAY THE KNOWLEDGE IS A PART OF ME, OZYMANDIAS.
AND YOU BROUGHT EN SABAH NUR BACK HERE AFTER I SHOT HIM YEARS AGO?
YEARS IN WHICH, THROUGH ALL THE CHANGES TIME AND TIDE BRING TO BEAR...

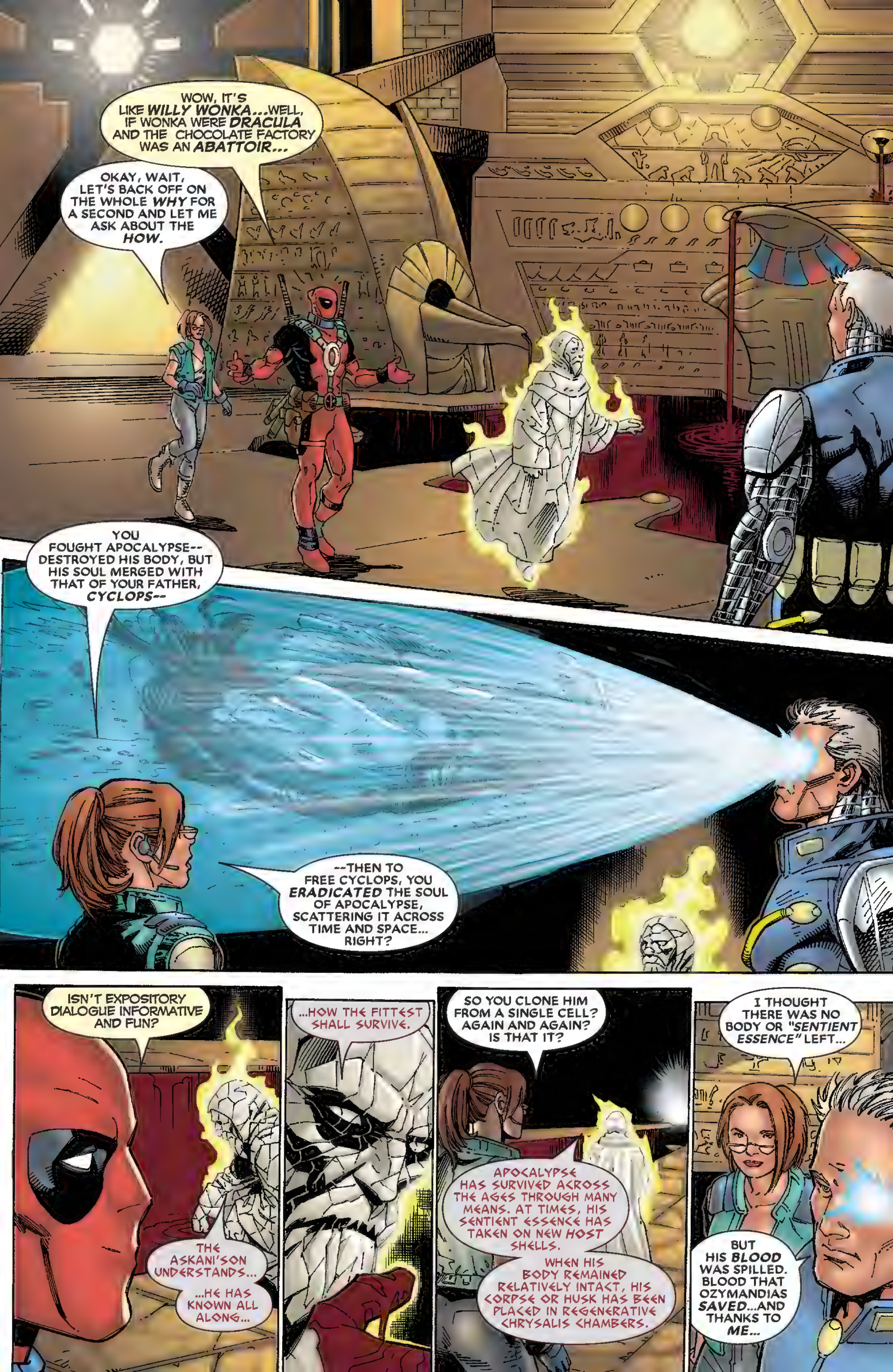

...YOU HAVE GONE UNCHANGED.
MUST BE MY MOISTURIZER...
HE WAS AN ODD MAN. AT ONCE SELF-INDULGENT, OVERLY SERIOUS AND FRIGHTENING IN HIS BEARING...
...WHILE AT OTHER TIMES, FLIPPANT AND CASUAL IN REGARD TO THE MOST ASTONISHING THINGS.
HE BORE WEAPONS MADE OF METALS UNSEEN BY MANKIND...
SFSHUK
...BUT WIELDED THEM WITH A BARBARIC SKILL THAT ONLY SEEMED CAPABLE OF THRIVING IN THAT TIME.
HE DISAPPEARED INTO THE CONSTRUCT, SWALLOWED BY DARKNESS.
I HAD BEEN INSIDE THAT NIGHTMARE ONCE BEFORE... IT HAD CHANGED ME SO THAT I COULD CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD MY MASTER...

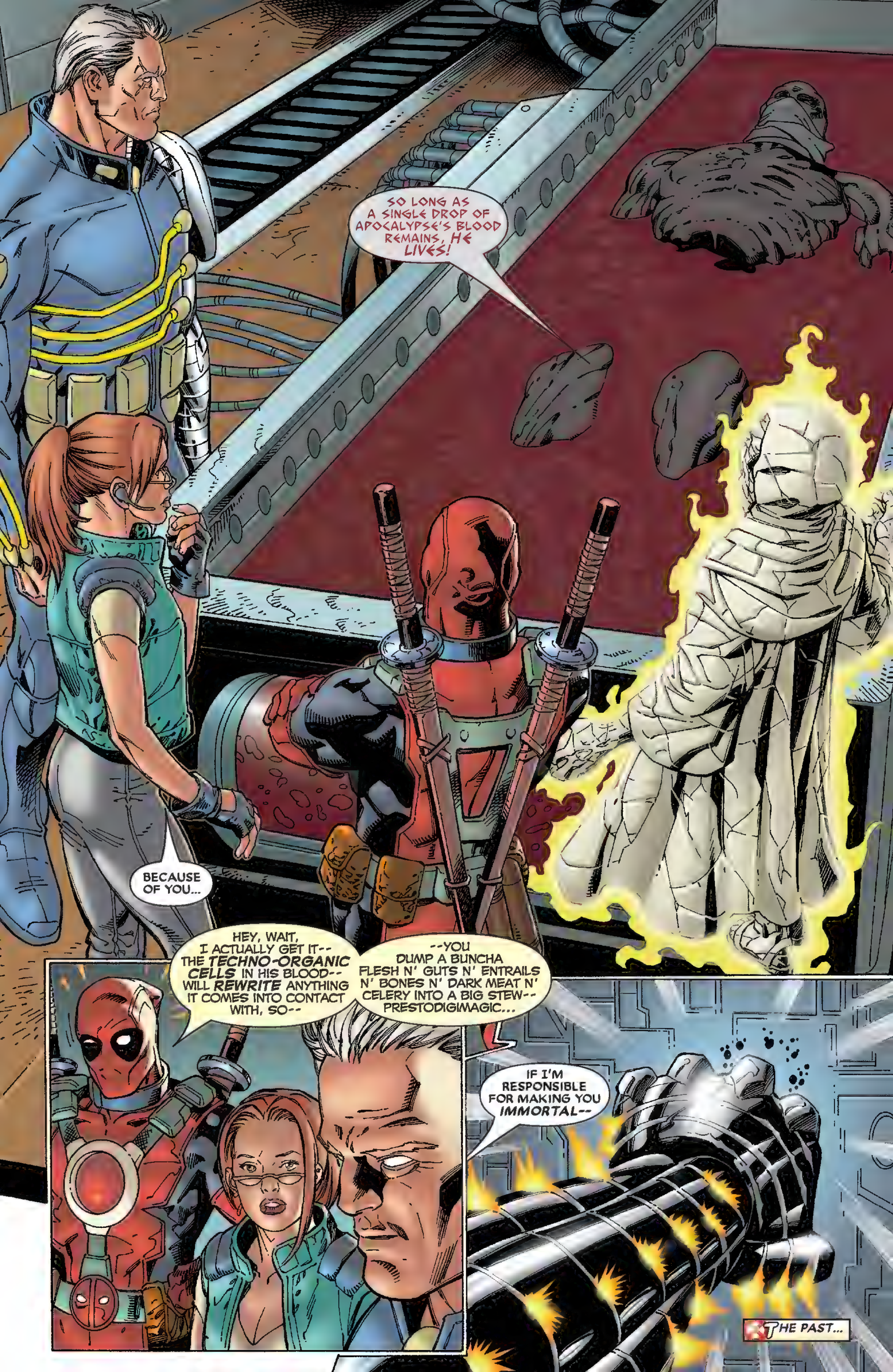

...I SWORE I WOULD NEVER GO BACK INSIDE AGAIN.
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST WAS MY MASTER'S CREED.
IN MY FEAR, I THOUGHT...
...LET HIM PROVE FIT...
EN SABAH NUR...?
TRAVELER?
I MUST THANK YOU... FOR HAVING SHOWN ME THE WAY.
BECAUSE OF *YOU*...I HAVE BEEN REAWAKENED...I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT MUCH BY THIS *MONOLITH*...AND WE HAVE FOUND...MUCH COMMON GROUND...

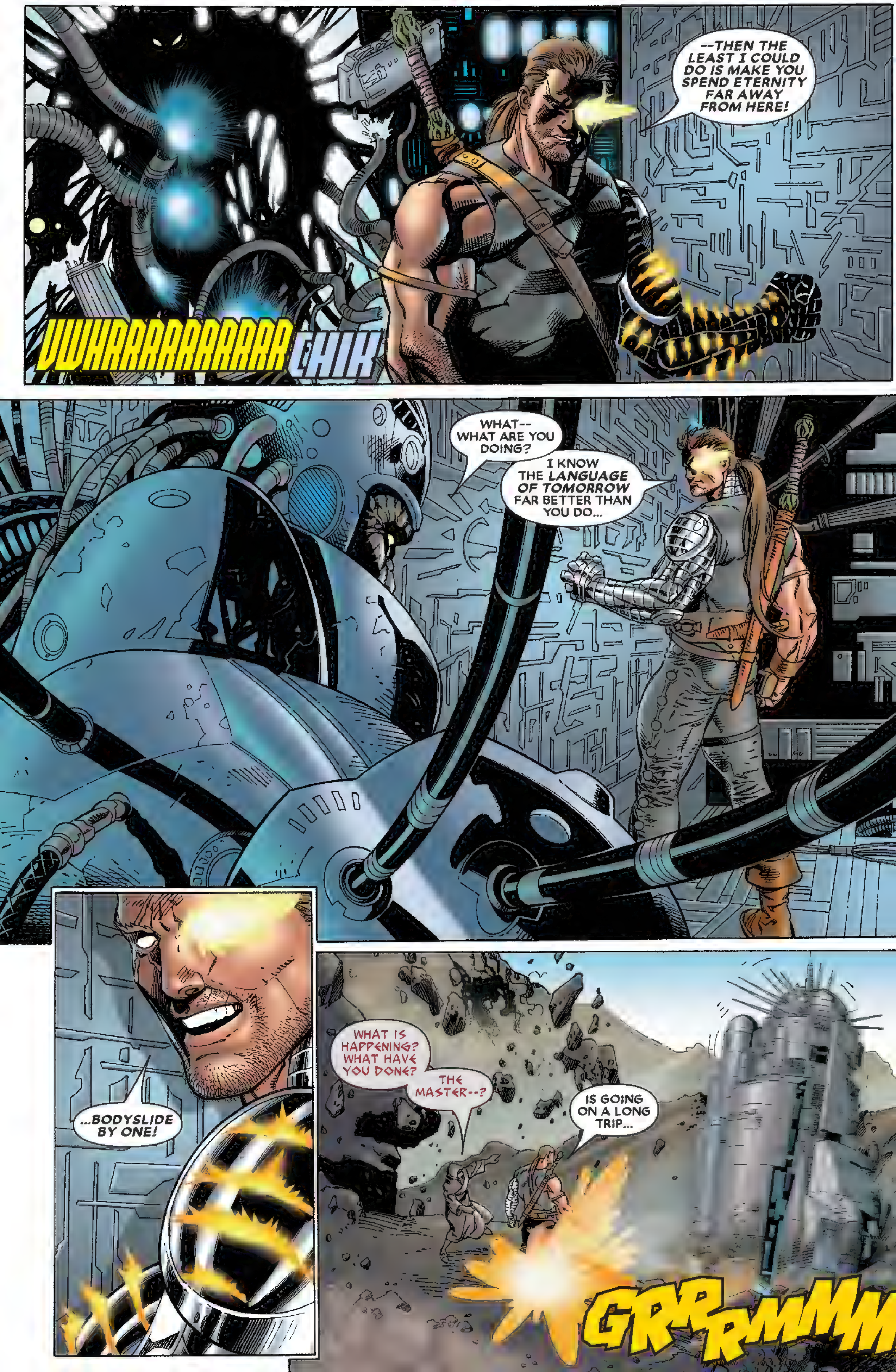

YOUR VERY UNIQUE "BLOOD" PROVIDED ME A NEW CHANCE AT LIFE--
--AND THE MEANS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE INTELLIGENCE BEATING BEHIND THESE PULSING WALLS!
SHVUMM
CHANK
CHANK
YES...BUT THE VERY THING ALLOWING YOU TO TALK WITH THIS ALIEN SHIP--
WHRAR
--MY TECHNO-ORGANICS--
--WILL ALSO LET ME--
--TALK TO THE SHIP AS WELL!
SHVKK

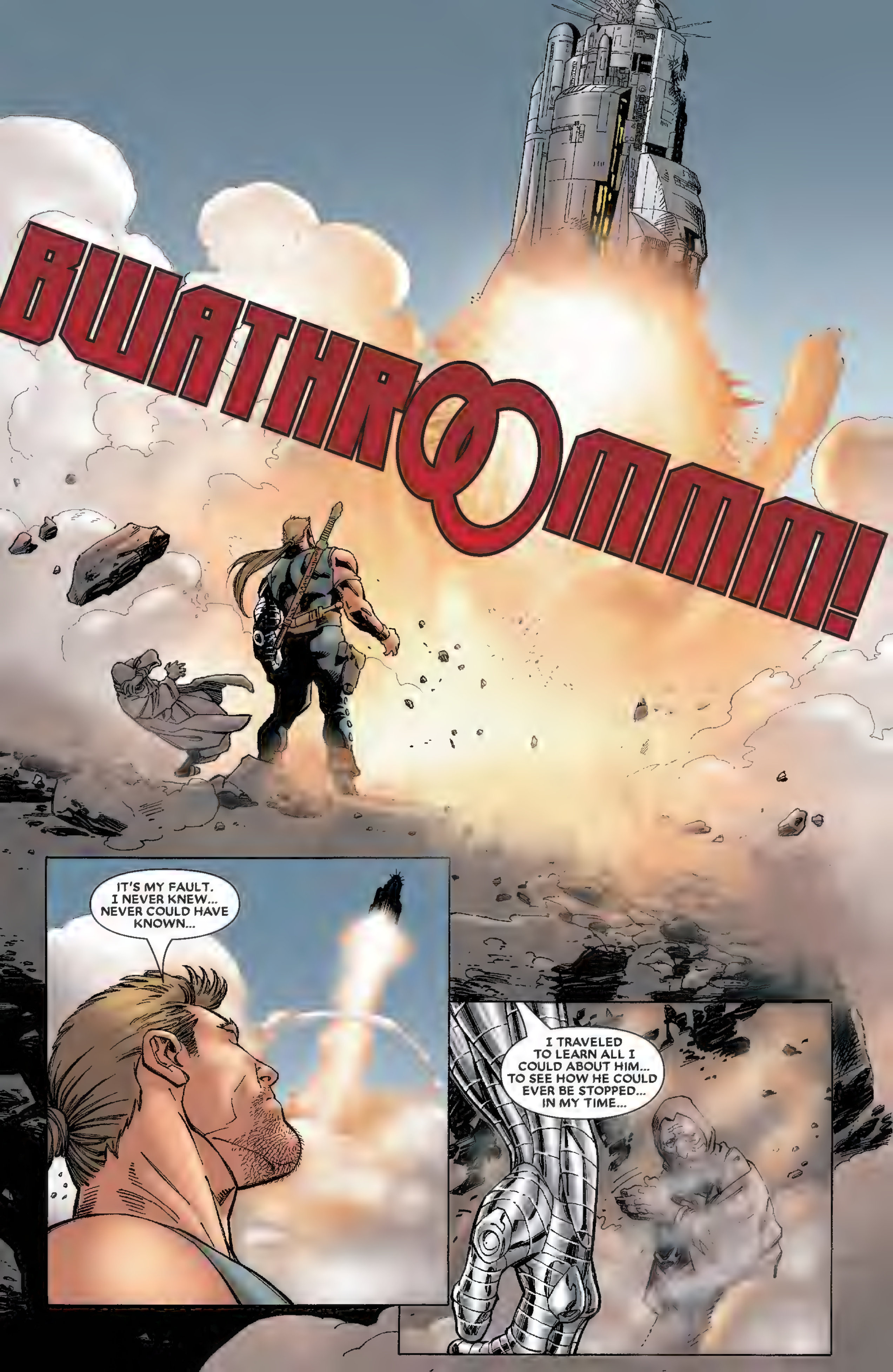

AKKABA. TODAY.
NO, I'M NOT.
YES, YOU ARE!
WADE, I'M NOT BEING MIND-CONTROLLED.
YOU'RE A CLONE?
NO.
AN EVIL ALTERNATE FUTURE TIMELINE VERSION OF YOURSELF...AH... WAIT--NO GOATEE... CRAP!
I AM ME. I AM FINE. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
EXACTLY HOW DOES NOT WANTING TO STOP THE REBIRTH OF A GENOCIDAL FORCE OF NATURE GIVE US ANY CONFIDENCE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
HE WAS ALWAYS...AN ODD MAN...
BECAUSE ENSURING THIS RESURRECTION GUARANTEES I CAN SAVE THIS WORLD.
AND THE ABSOLUTE BEST PART IS THAT HE REALLY BELIEVES IT!
NO, THE ABSOLUTE BEST PART IS THAT HE'S PROBABLY RIGHT!

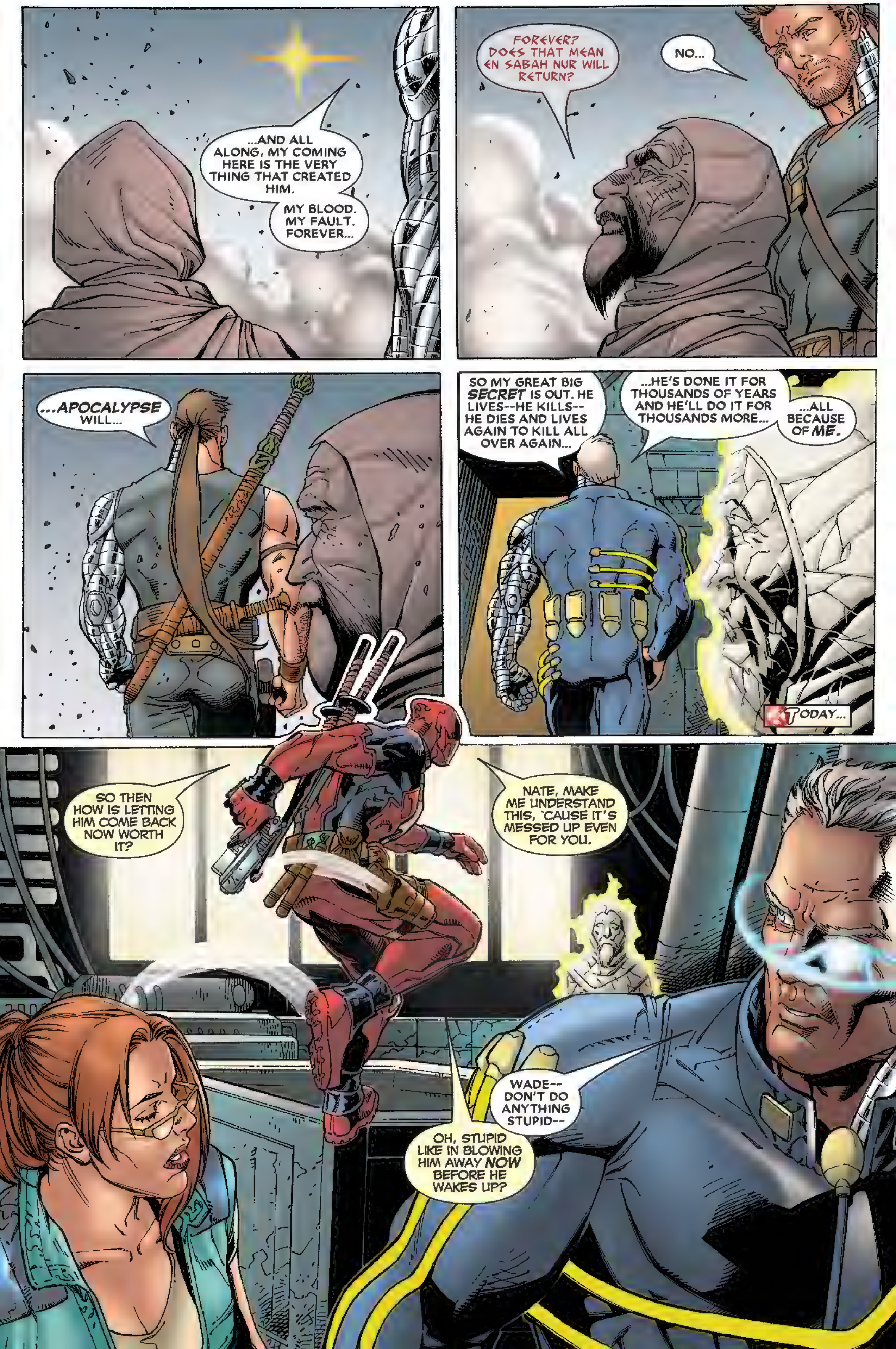

THE ASKANI'SON KNOWS HOW YESTERDAY FLOWS LIKE BLOOD THROUGH THE VEINS OF TIME...
...TODAY IS BUT A MINOR OBSTACLE IN THAT CURRENT OF WHICH ALL TRIBUTARIES LEAD TO TOMORROW.
TODAY... I CAN BE A MAJOR OBSTACLE...
NO, WADE, WHAT OZYMANDIAS IS BOILING IT DOWN TO IS, "TRUST ME, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING."
GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH? WELL, OF COURSE, AN OFFER OF CORN DOGS AND MOUNTAIN DEW WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU!
OOH, IS THERE DEW?
I'M RANTING A BIT, AREN'T I?
WAIT UP!

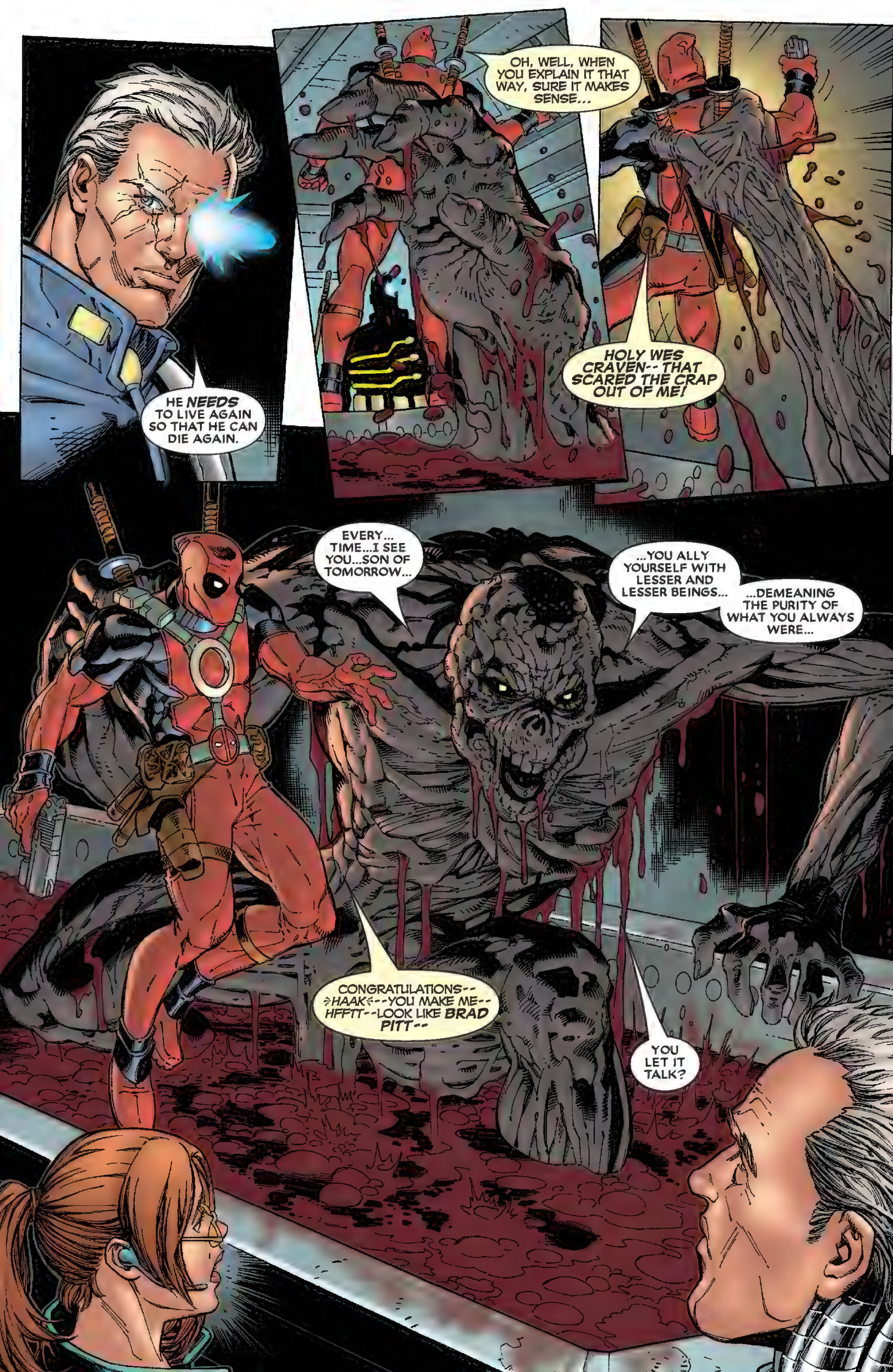

WOW, IT'S LIKE *WILLY WONKA*...WELL, IF WONKA WERE *DRACULA* AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY WAS AN *ABATTOIR*...
OKAY, WAIT, LET'S BACK OFF ON THE WHOLE *WHY* FOR A SECOND AND LET ME ASK ABOUT THE *HOW*.
YOU FOUGHT APOCALYPSE--DESTROYED HIS BODY, BUT HIS SOUL MERGED WITH THAT OF YOUR FATHER, *CYCLOPS*--
--THEN TO FREE CYCLOPS, YOU *ERADICATED* THE SOUL OF APOCALYPSE, SCATTERING IT ACROSS TIME AND SPACE... RIGHT?
ISN'T EXPOSITORY DIALOGUE INFORMATIVE AND FUN?
THE ASKANI'SON UNDERSTANDS...
...HE HAS KNOWN ALL ALONG...
...HOW THE FITTEST SHALL SURVIVE.
SO YOU CLONE HIM FROM A SINGLE CELL? AGAIN AND AGAIN? IS THAT IT?
APOCALYPSE HAS SURVIVED ACROSS THE AGES THROUGH MANY MEANS. AT TIMES, HIS SENTIENT ESSENCE HAS TAKEN ON NEW *HOST* SHELLS.
WHEN HIS BODY REMAINED RELATIVELY INTACT, HIS CORPSE OR HUSK HAS BEEN PLACED IN REGENERATIVE CHRYSALIS CHAMBERS.
I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO BODY OR *"SENTIENT ESSENCE"* LEFT...
BUT HIS *BLOOD* WAS SPILLED. BLOOD THAT OZYMANDIAS *SAVED*...AND THANKS TO *ME*...

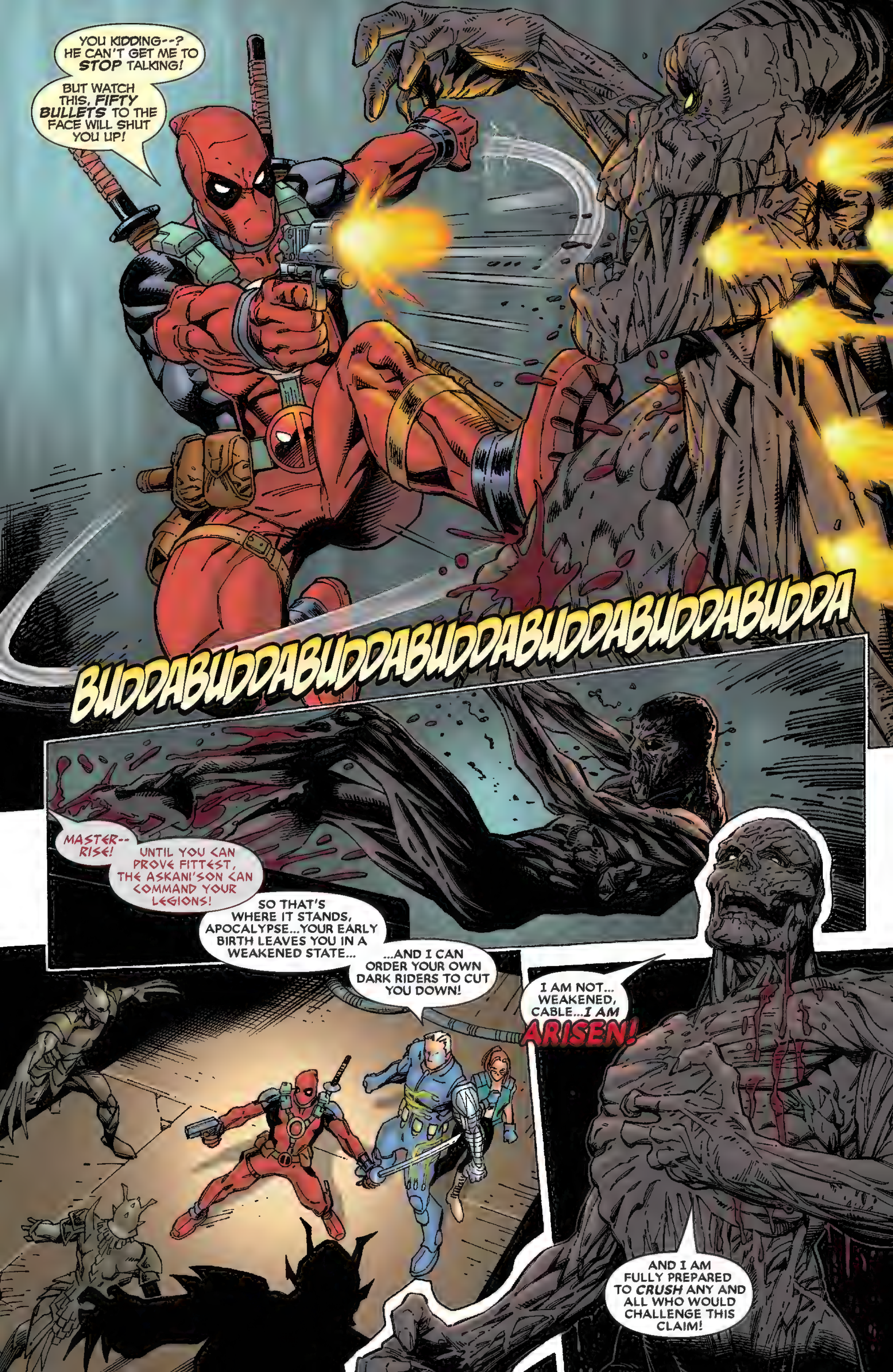

SO LONG AS A SINGLE DROP OF APOCALYPSE'S BLOOD REMAINS, HE LIVES!
BECAUSE OF YOU...
HEY, WAIT, I ACTUALLY GET IT-- THE TECHNO-ORGANIC CELLS IN HIS BLOOD-- WILL REWRITE ANYTHING IT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH, SO--
--YOU DUMP A BUNCHA FLESH N' GUTS N' ENTRAILS N' BONES N' DARK MEAT N' CELERY INTO A BIG STEW-- PRESTODIGIMAGIC...
IF I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOU IMMORTAL--
THE PAST...

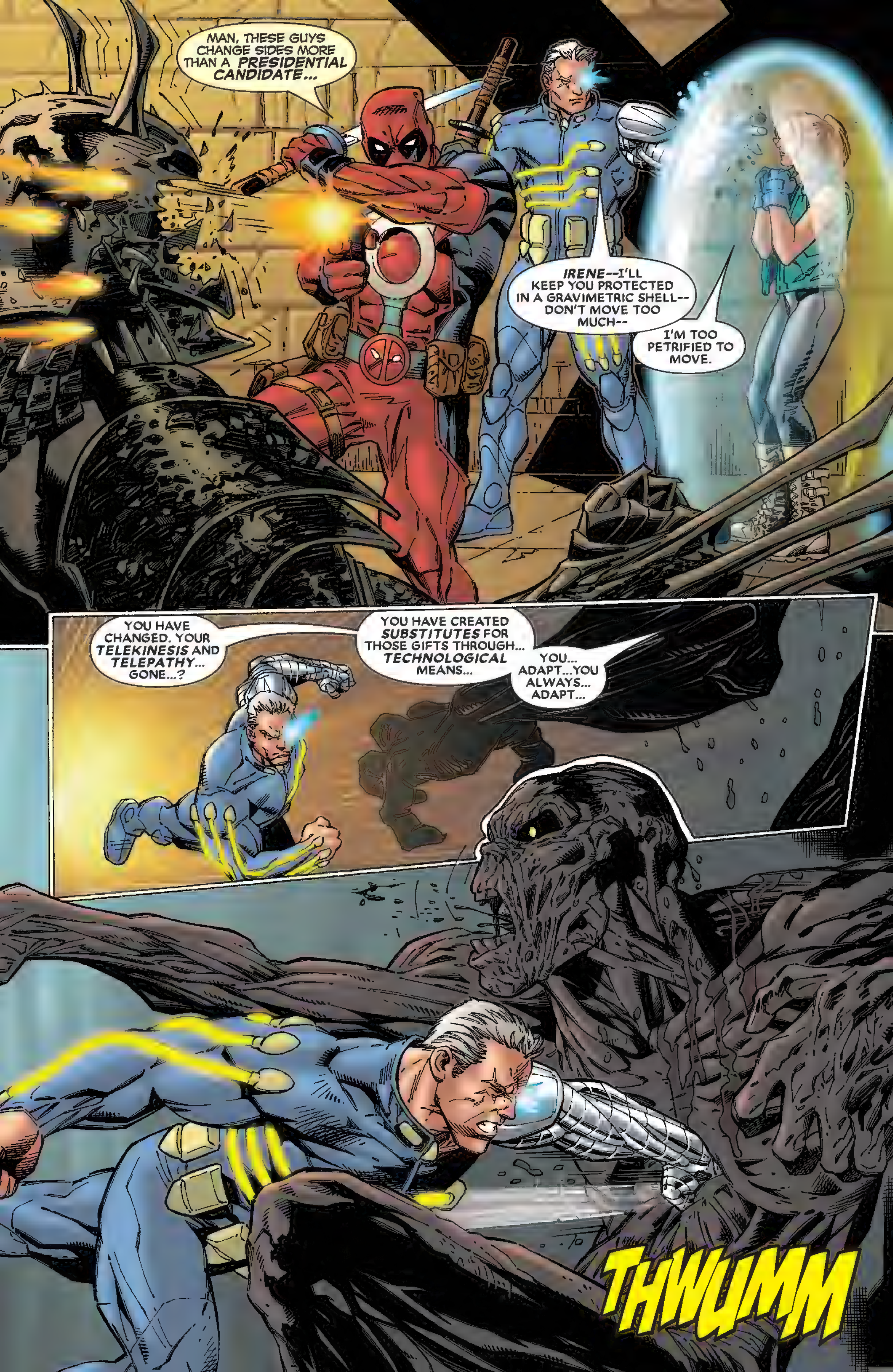

--THEN THE LEAST I COULD DO IS MAKE YOU SPEND ETERNITY FAR AWAY FROM HERE!
VWHRRRRRRRRRR
CHIK
WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I KNOW THE LANGUAGE OF TOMORROW FAR BETTER THAN YOU DO...
...BODYSLIDE BY ONE!
WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
THE MASTER--?
IS GOING ON A LONG TRIP...
GRRRMMMM

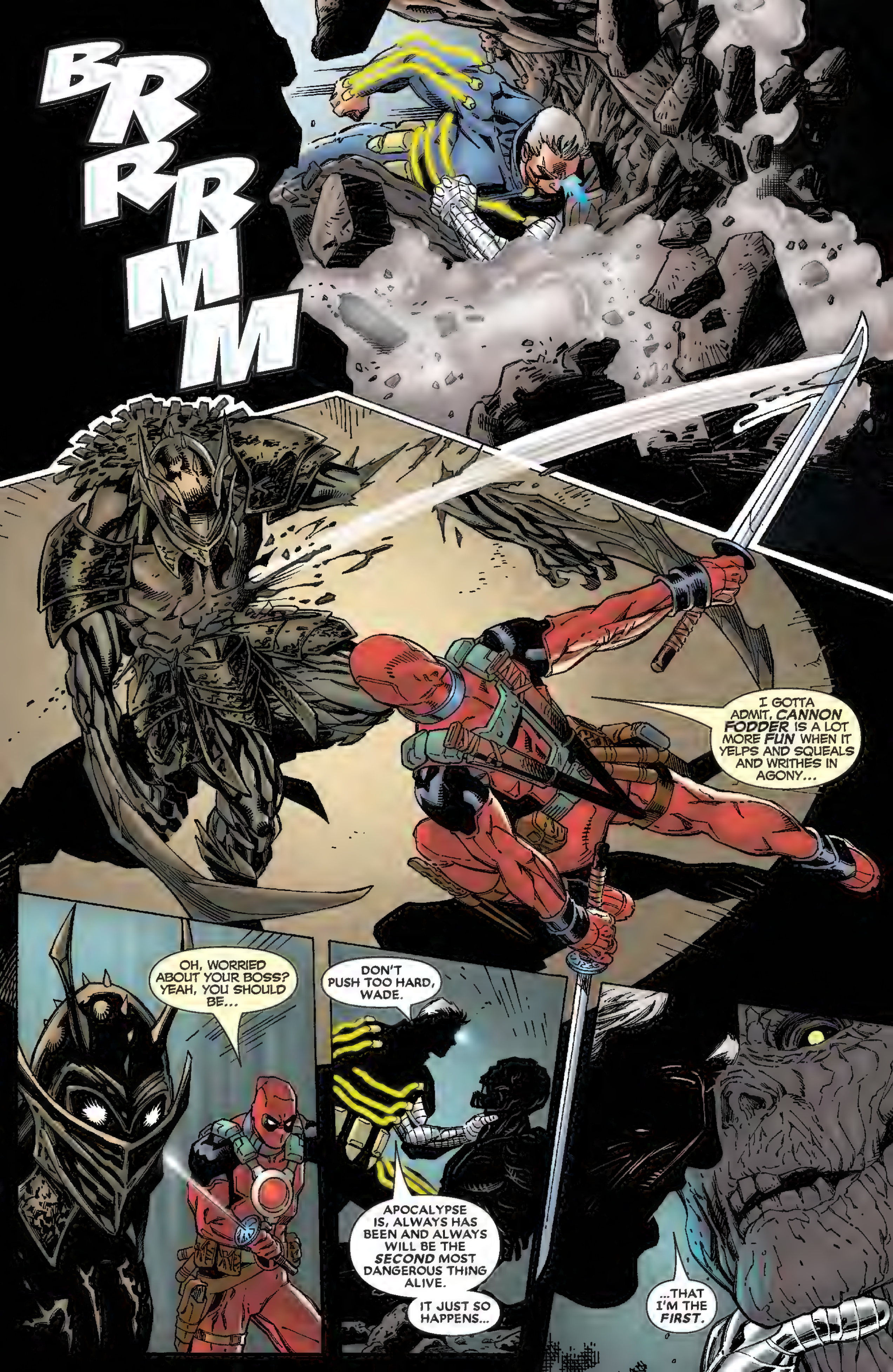

BWATHROOMMMM!
IT'S MY FAULT. I NEVER KNEW... NEVER COULD HAVE KNOWN...
I TRAVELED TO LEARN ALL I COULD ABOUT HIM... TO SEE HOW HE COULD EVER BE STOPPED... IN MY TIME...

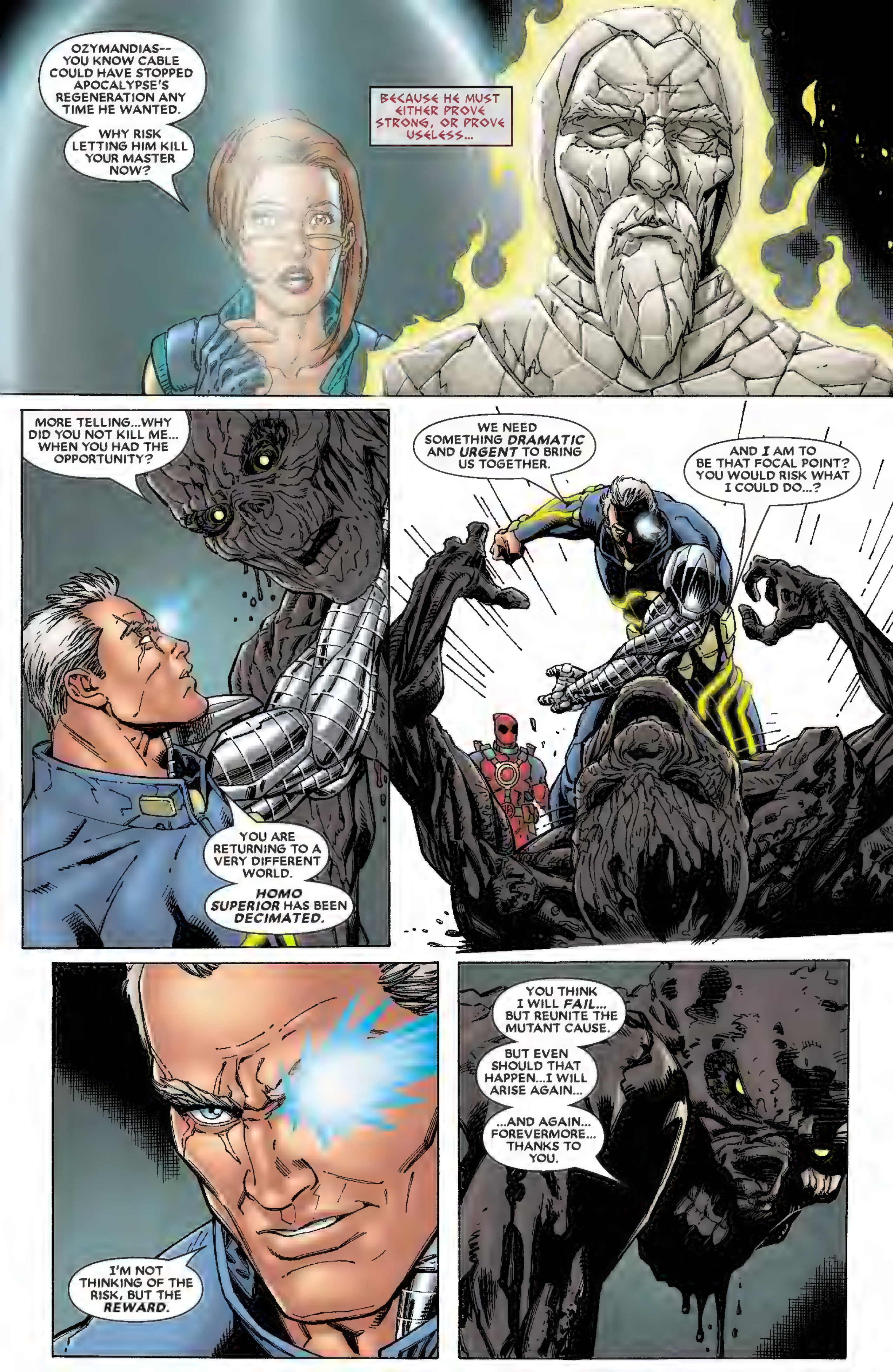

...AND ALL ALONG, MY COMING HERE IS THE VERY THING THAT CREATED HIM.
MY BLOOD. MY FAULT. FOREVER...
FOREVER? DOES THAT MEAN EN SABAH NUR WILL RETURN?
NO...
...*APOCALYPSE* WILL...
SO MY GREAT BIG ***SECRET*** IS OUT. HE LIVES--HE KILLS--HE DIES AND LIVES AGAIN TO KILL ALL OVER AGAIN...
...HE'S DONE IT FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND HE'LL DO IT FOR THOUSANDS MORE...
...ALL BECAUSE OF ***ME.***
TODAY...
SO THEN HOW IS LETTING HIM COME BACK NOW WORTH IT?
NATE, MAKE ME UNDERSTAND THIS, 'CAUSE IT'S MESSED UP EVEN FOR YOU.
WADE-- DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID--
OH, STUPID LIKE IN BLOWING HIM AWAY ***NOW*** BEFORE HE WAKES UP?

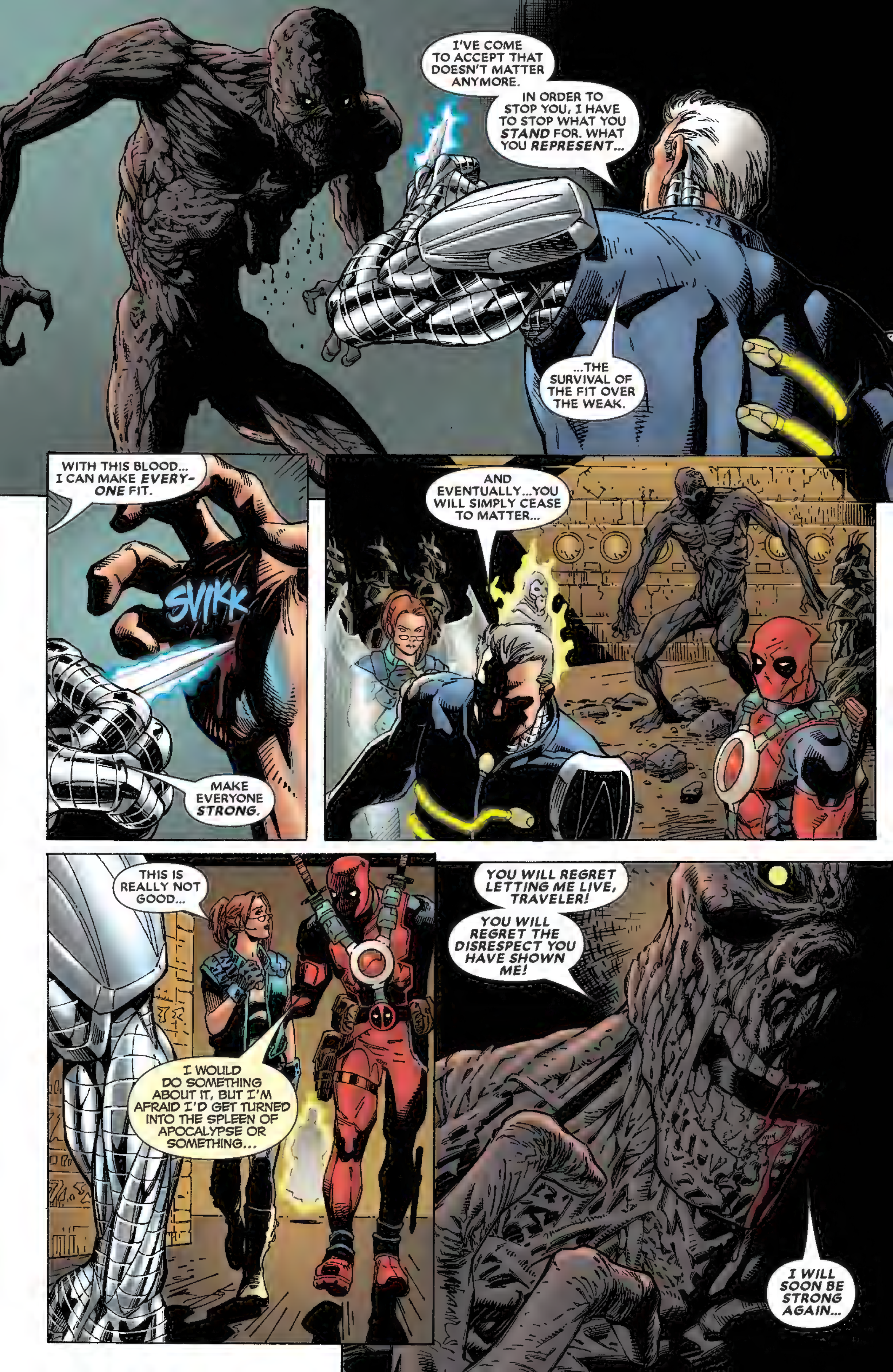

HE **NEEDS** TO LIVE AGAIN SO THAT HE CAN DIE AGAIN.
OH, WELL, WHEN YOU EXPLAIN IT THAT WAY, SURE IT MAKES SENSE...
HOLY WES CRAVEN-- THAT SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME!
EVERY... TIME...I SEE YOU...SON OF TOMORROW...
...YOU ALLY YOURSELF WITH LESSER AND LESSER BEINGS...
...DEMEANING THE PURITY OF WHAT YOU ALWAYS WERE...
CONGRATULATIONS-- *HAAK*--YOU MAKE ME-- *HFFTT*--LOOK LIKE **BRAD PITT**--
YOU LET IT TALK?

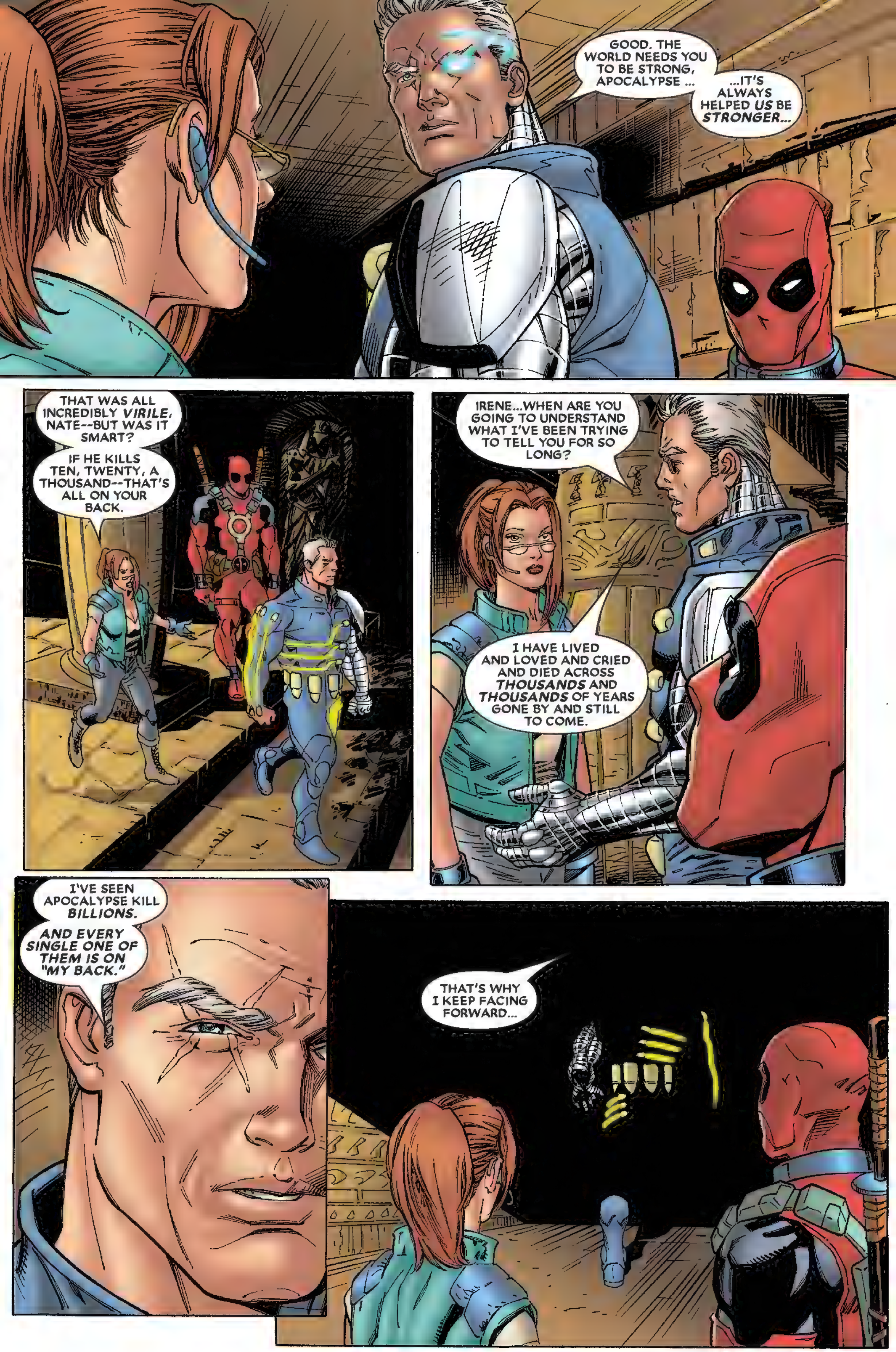

YOU KIDDING--? HE CAN'T GET ME TO *STOP* TALKING!
BUT WATCH THIS, *FIFTY BULLETS* TO THE FACE WILL SHUT YOU UP!
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
MASTER-- RISE!
UNTIL YOU CAN PROVE FITTEST, THE ASKANI'SON CAN COMMAND YOUR LEGIONS!
SO THAT'S WHERE IT STANDS, APOCALYPSE...YOUR EARLY BIRTH LEAVES YOU IN A WEAKENED STATE...
...AND I CAN ORDER YOUR OWN DARK RIDERS TO CUT YOU DOWN!
I AM NOT... WEAKENED, CABLE...*I AM* ARISEN!
AND I AM FULLY PREPARED TO *CRUSH* ANY AND ALL WHO WOULD CHALLENGE THIS CLAIM!

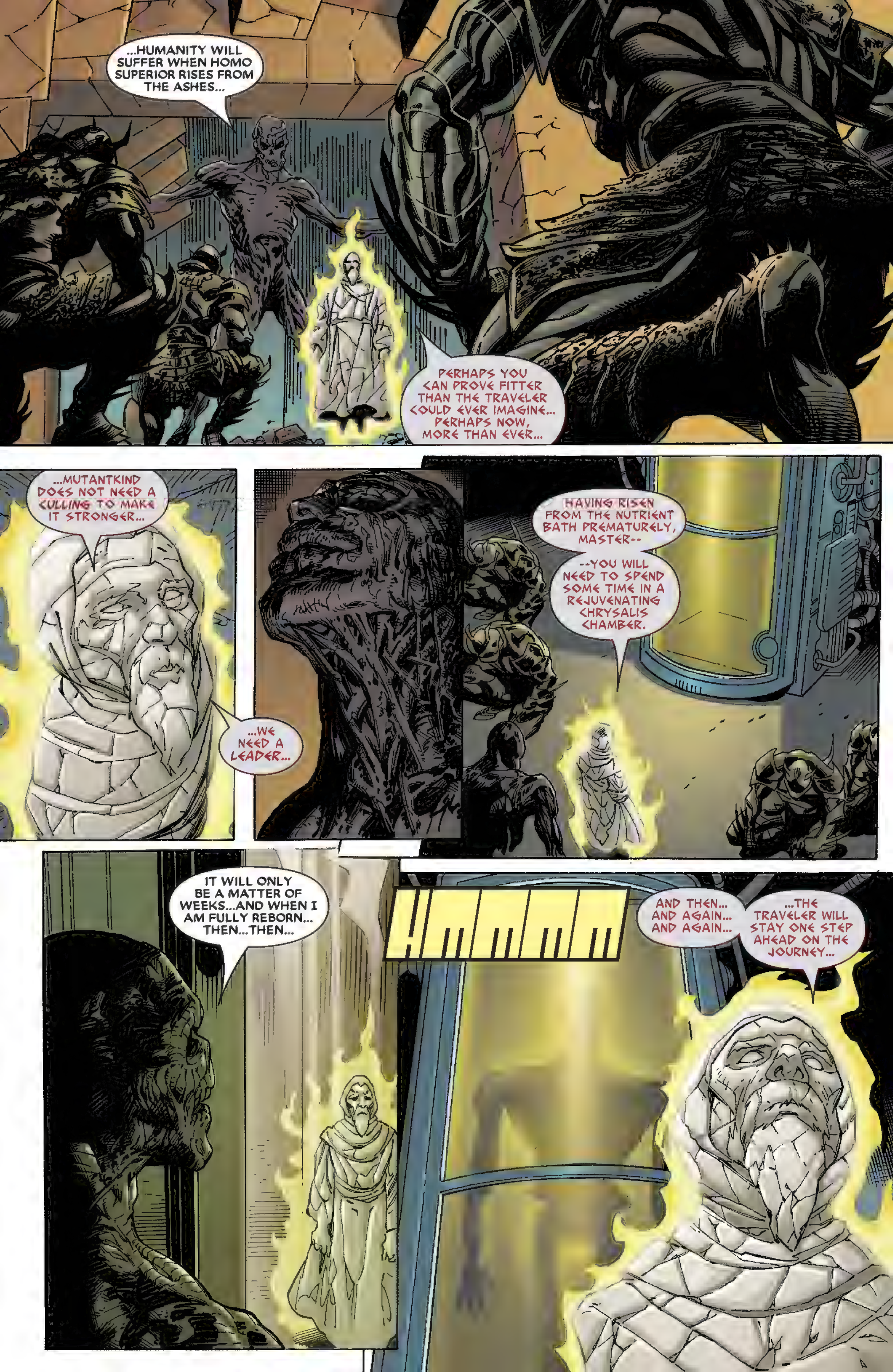

MAN, THESE GUYS CHANGE SIDES MORE THAN A *PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE...*
IRENE--I'LL KEEP YOU PROTECTED IN A GRAVIMETRIC SHELL-- DON'T MOVE TOO MUCH--
I'M TOO PETRIFIED TO MOVE.
YOU HAVE CHANGED. YOUR *TELEKINESIS* AND *TELEPATHY*... GONE...?
YOU HAVE CREATED *SUBSTITUTES* FOR THOSE GIFTS THROUGH... *TECHNOLOGICAL* MEANS...
YOU... ADAPT...YOU ALWAYS... ADAPT...
THWUMM

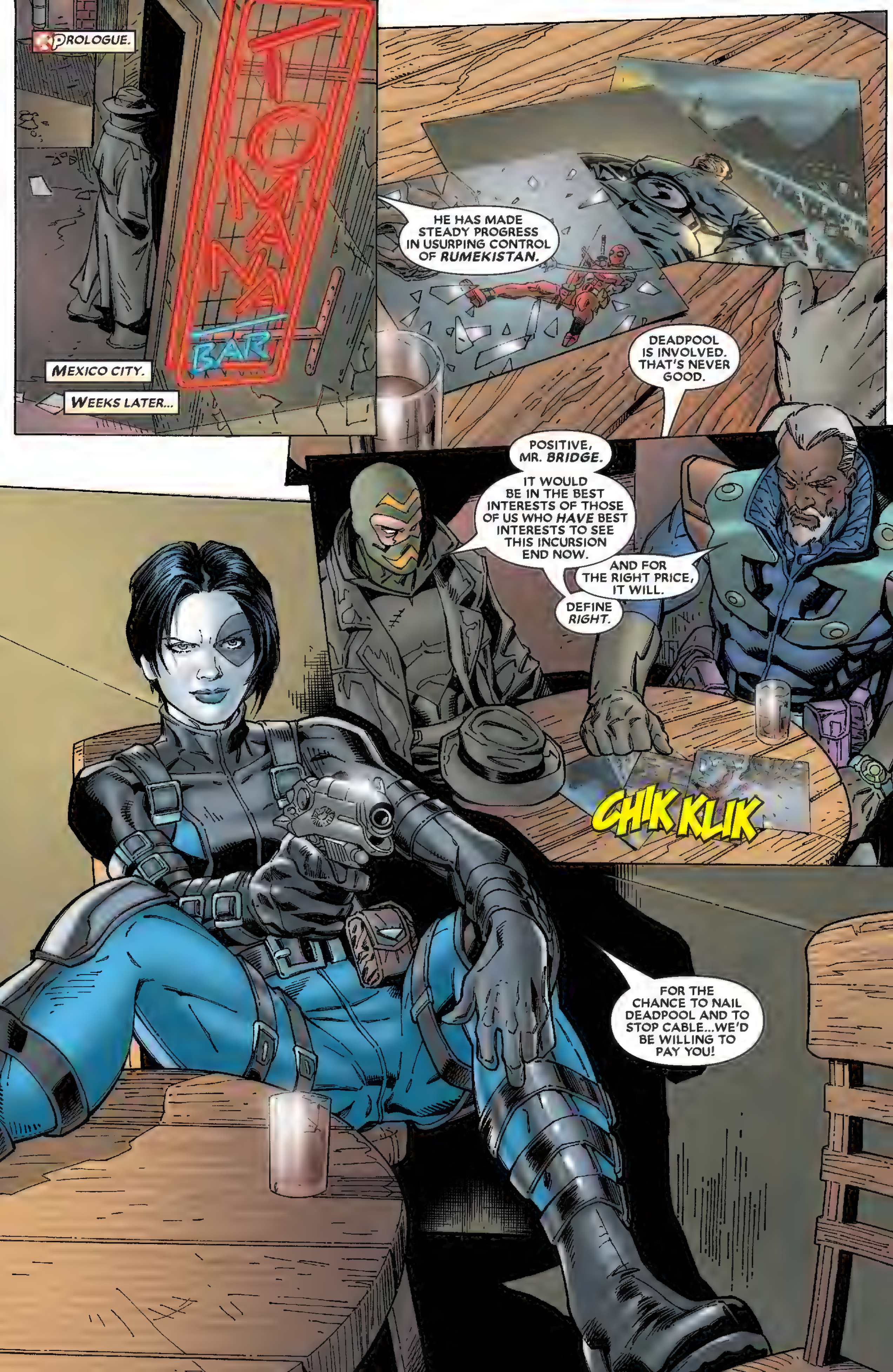

BRRRMMM
I GOTTA ADMIT, *CANNON FODDER* IS A LOT MORE *FUN* WHEN IT YELPS AND SQUEALS AND WRITHES IN AGONY...
OH, WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BOSS? YEAH, YOU SHOULD BE...
DON'T PUSH TOO HARD, WADE.
APOCALYPSE IS, ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE *SECOND* MOST DANGEROUS THING ALIVE.
IT JUST SO HAPPENS...
...THAT I'M THE *FIRST*.


OZYMANDIAS-- YOU KNOW CABLE COULD HAVE STOPPED APOCALYPSE'S REGENERATION ANY TIME HE WANTED.
WHY RISK LETTING HIM KILL YOUR MASTER NOW?
BECAUSE HE MUST EITHER PROVE STRONG, OR PROVE USELESS...
MORE TELLING...WHY DID YOU NOT KILL ME... WHEN YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY?
YOU ARE RETURNING TO A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD.
HOMO SUPERIOR HAS BEEN *DECIMATED.*
WE NEED SOMETHING *DRAMATIC* AND *URGENT* TO BRING US TOGETHER.
AND *I* AM TO BE THAT FOCAL POINT? YOU WOULD RISK WHAT I COULD DO...?
I'M NOT THINKING OF THE RISK, BUT THE *REWARD.*
YOU THINK I WILL *FAIL...* BUT REUNITE THE MUTANT CAUSE.
BUT EVEN SHOULD THAT HAPPEN...I WILL ARISE AGAIN...
...AND AGAIN... FOREVERMORE... THANKS TO YOU.


I'VE COME TO ACCEPT THAT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
IN ORDER TO STOP YOU, I HAVE TO STOP WHAT YOU *STAND* FOR. WHAT YOU *REPRESENT*...
...THE SURVIVAL OF THE FIT OVER THE WEAK.
WITH THIS BLOOD... I CAN MAKE *EVERY-ONE* FIT.
SVIKK
MAKE EVERYONE *STRONG*.
AND EVENTUALLY...YOU WILL SIMPLY CEASE TO MATTER...
THIS IS REALLY NOT GOOD...
I WOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BUT I'M AFRAID I'D GET TURNED INTO THE SPLEEN OF APOCALYPSE OR SOMETHING...
YOU WILL REGRET LETTING ME LIVE, TRAVELER!
YOU WILL REGRET THE DISRESPECT YOU HAVE SHOWN ME!
I WILL SOON BE STRONG AGAIN...


GOOD. THE WORLD NEEDS YOU TO BE STRONG, APOCALYPSE ...
...IT'S ALWAYS HELPED *US* BE ***STRONGER...***
THAT WAS ALL INCREDIBLY ***VIRILE,*** NATE--BUT WAS IT SMART?
IF HE KILLS TEN, TWENTY, A THOUSAND--THAT'S ALL ON YOUR BACK.
IRENE...WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU FOR SO LONG?
I HAVE LIVED AND LOVED AND CRIED AND DIED ACROSS ***THOUSANDS*** AND ***THOUSANDS*** OF YEARS GONE BY AND STILL TO COME.
I'VE SEEN APOCALYPSE KILL ***BILLIONS.***
AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS ON "MY BACK."
THAT'S WHY I KEEP FACING FORWARD...


...HUMANITY WILL SUFFER WHEN HOMO SUPERIOR RISES FROM THE ASHES...
PERHAPS YOU CAN PROVE FITTER THAN THE TRAVELER COULD EVER IMAGINE... PERHAPS NOW, MORE THAN EVER...
...MUTANTKIND DOES NOT NEED A CULLING TO MAKE IT STRONGER...
...WE NEED A LEADER...
HAVING RISEN FROM THE NUTRIENT BATH PREMATURELY, MASTER--
--YOU WILL NEED TO SPEND SOME TIME IN A REJUVENATING CHRYSALIS CHAMBER.
IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF WEEKS...AND WHEN I AM FULLY REBORN... THEN...THEN...
HMMMMM
AND THEN... AND AGAIN... AND AGAIN...
...THE TRAVELER WILL STAY ONE STEP AHEAD ON THE JOURNEY...


PROLOGUE.
MEXICO CITY.
WEEKS LATER...
BAR
HE HAS MADE STEADY PROGRESS IN USURPING CONTROL OF *RUMEKISTAN.*
DEADPOOL IS INVOLVED. THAT'S NEVER GOOD.
POSITIVE, MR. *BRIDGE.*
IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THOSE OF US WHO *HAVE* BEST INTERESTS TO SEE THIS INCURSION END NOW.
AND FOR THE RIGHT PRICE, IT WILL.
DEFINE *RIGHT.*
CHIK KLIK
FOR THE CHANCE TO NAIL DEADPOOL AND TO STOP CABLE...WE'D BE WILLING TO PAY YOU!

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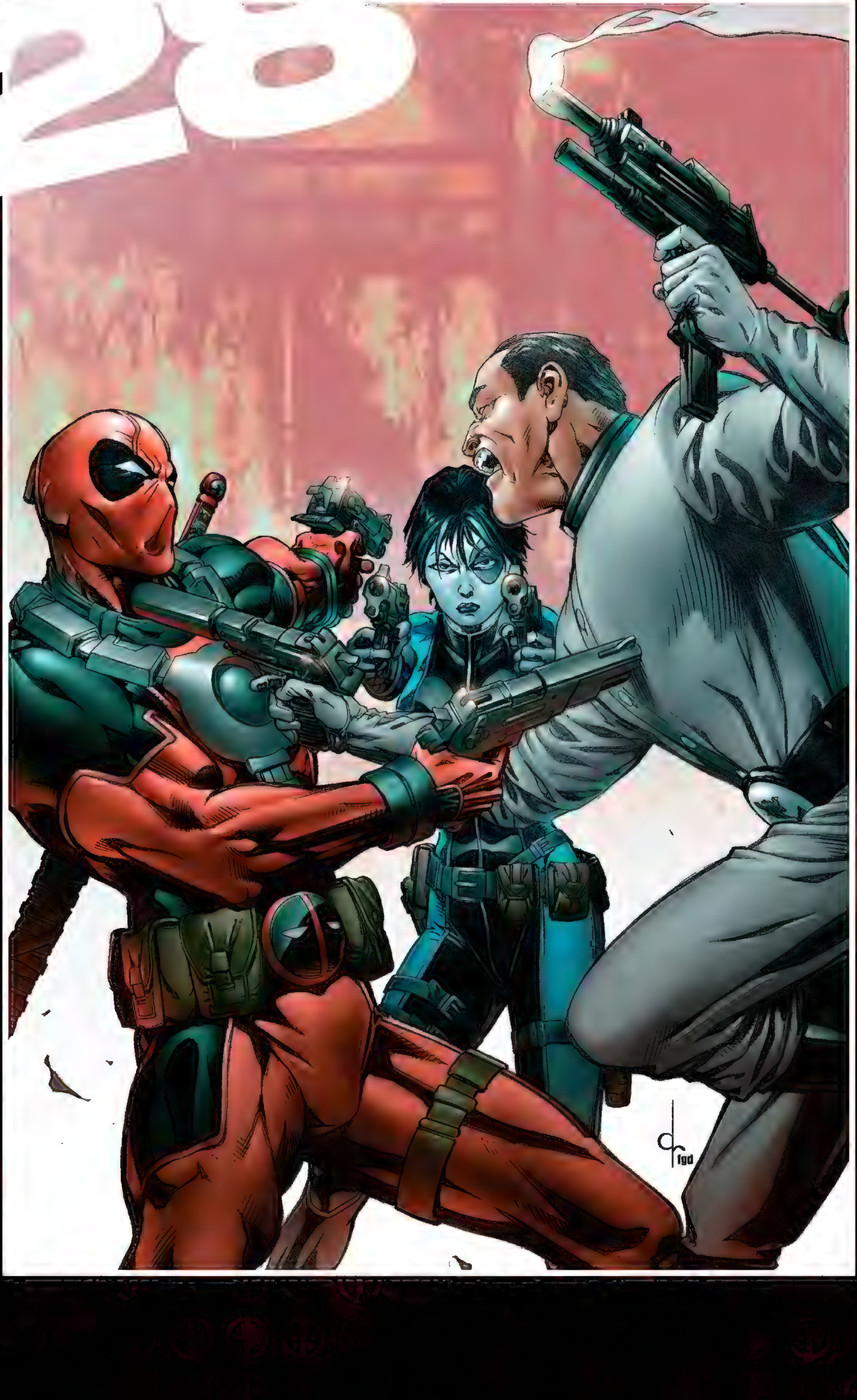
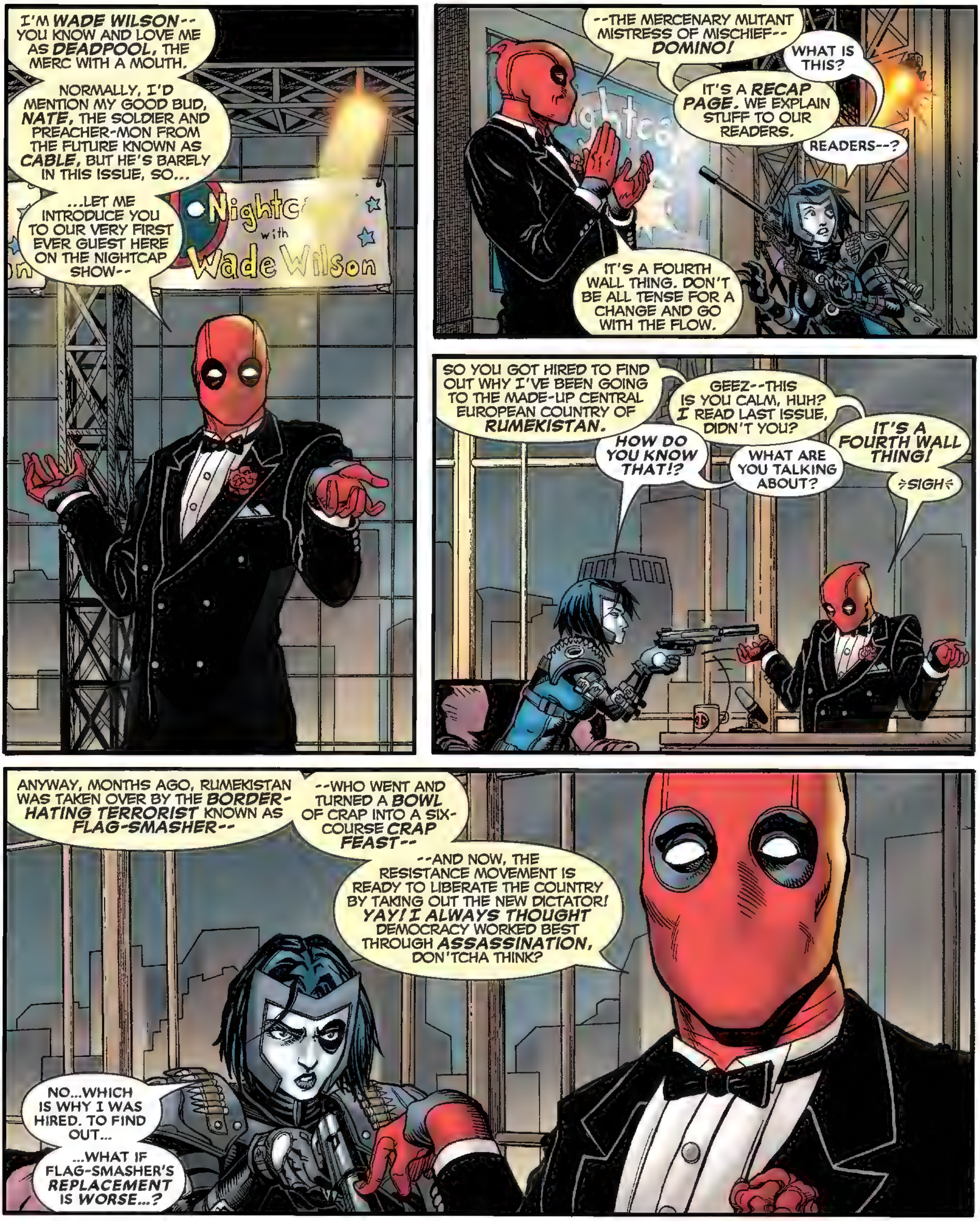
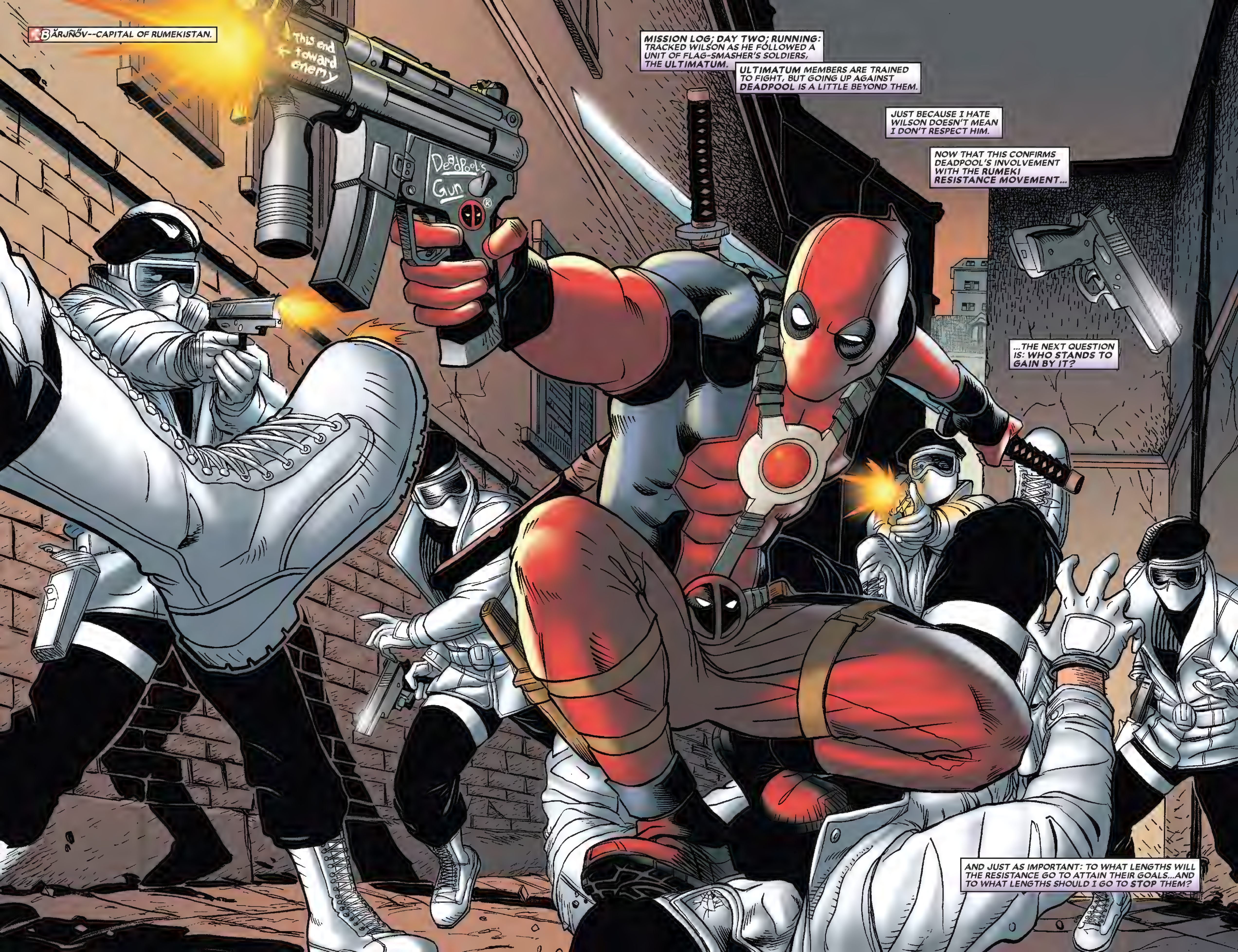


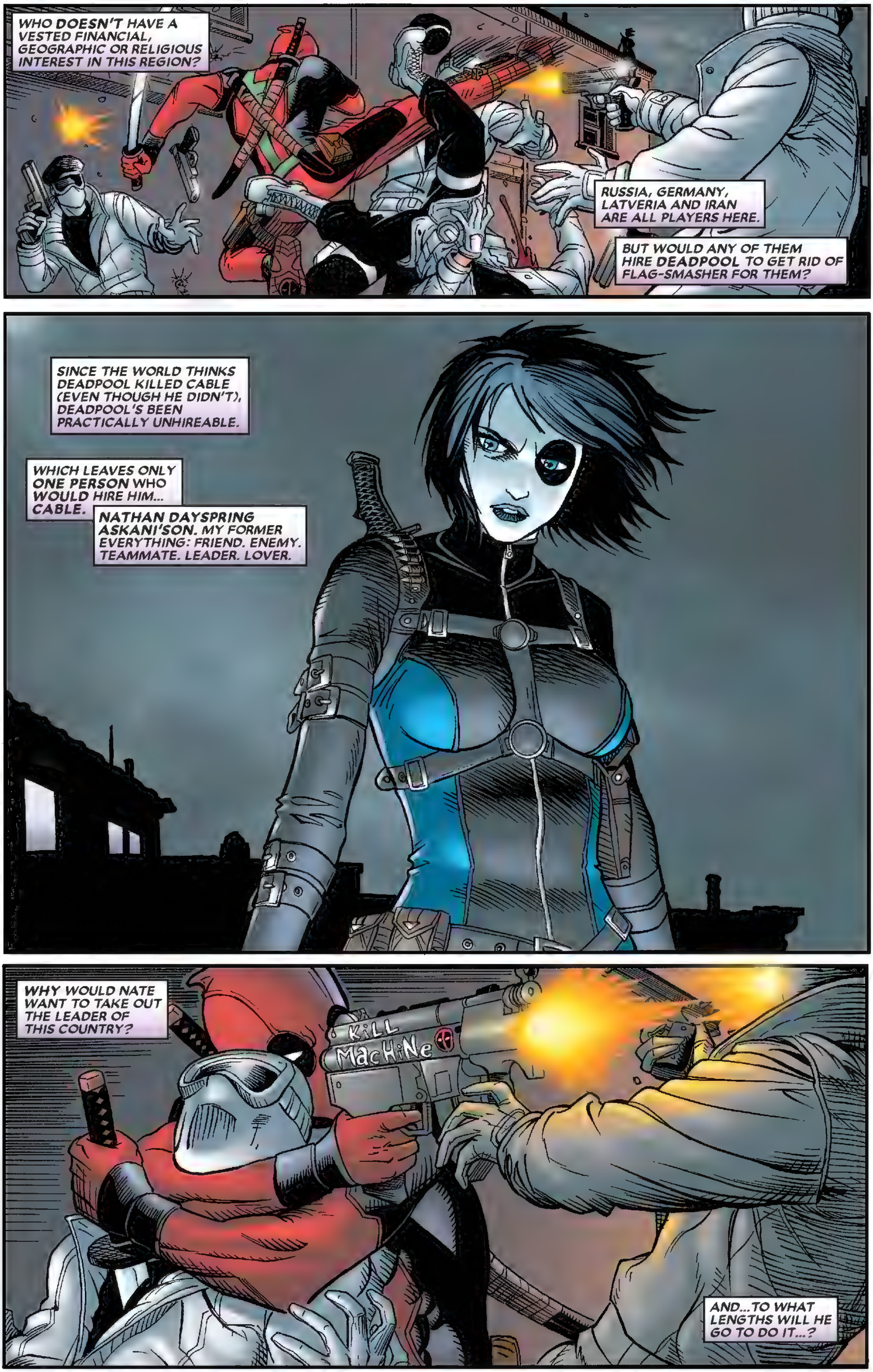
THE DOMINO PRINCIPLE

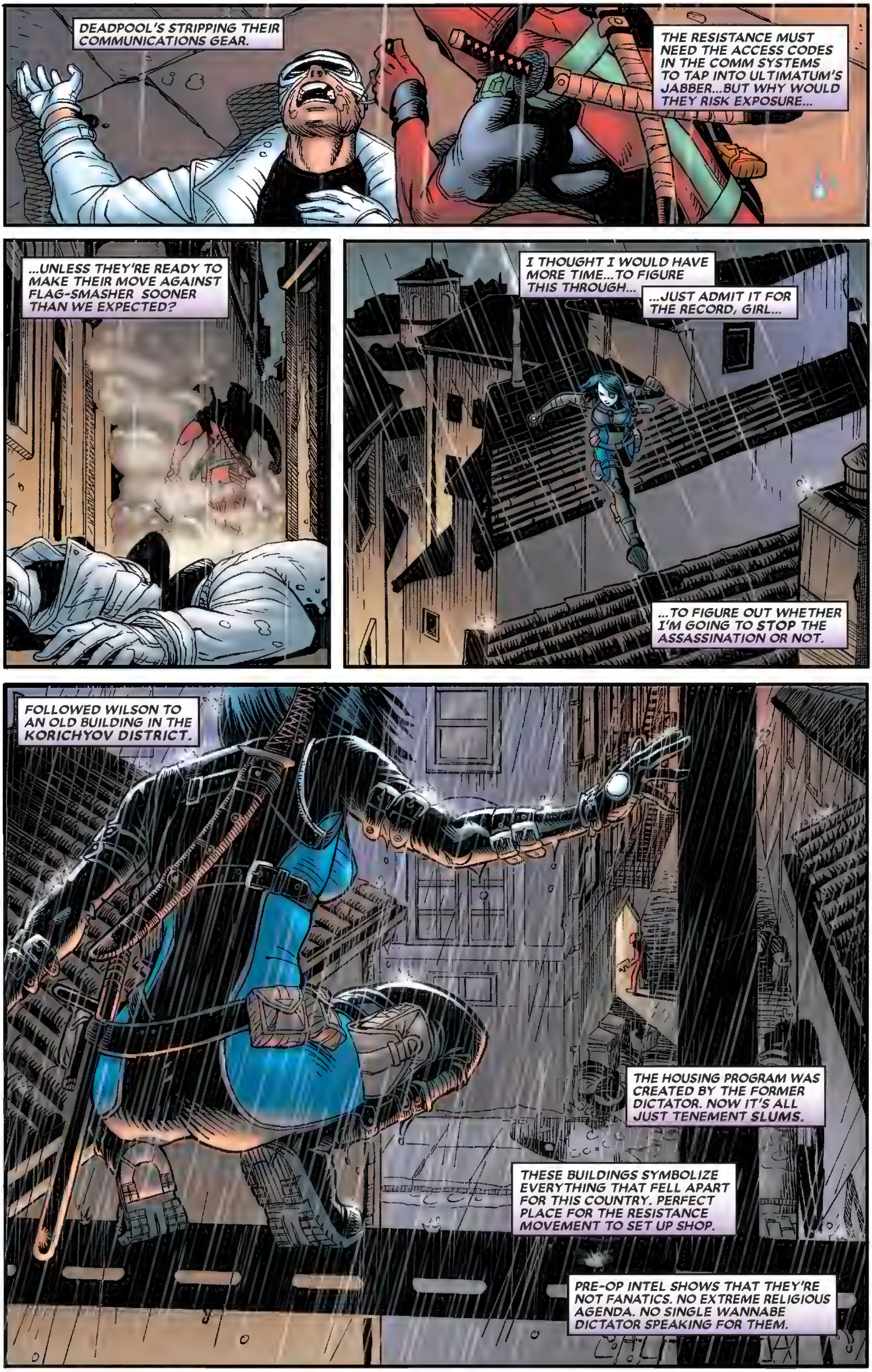
PART I

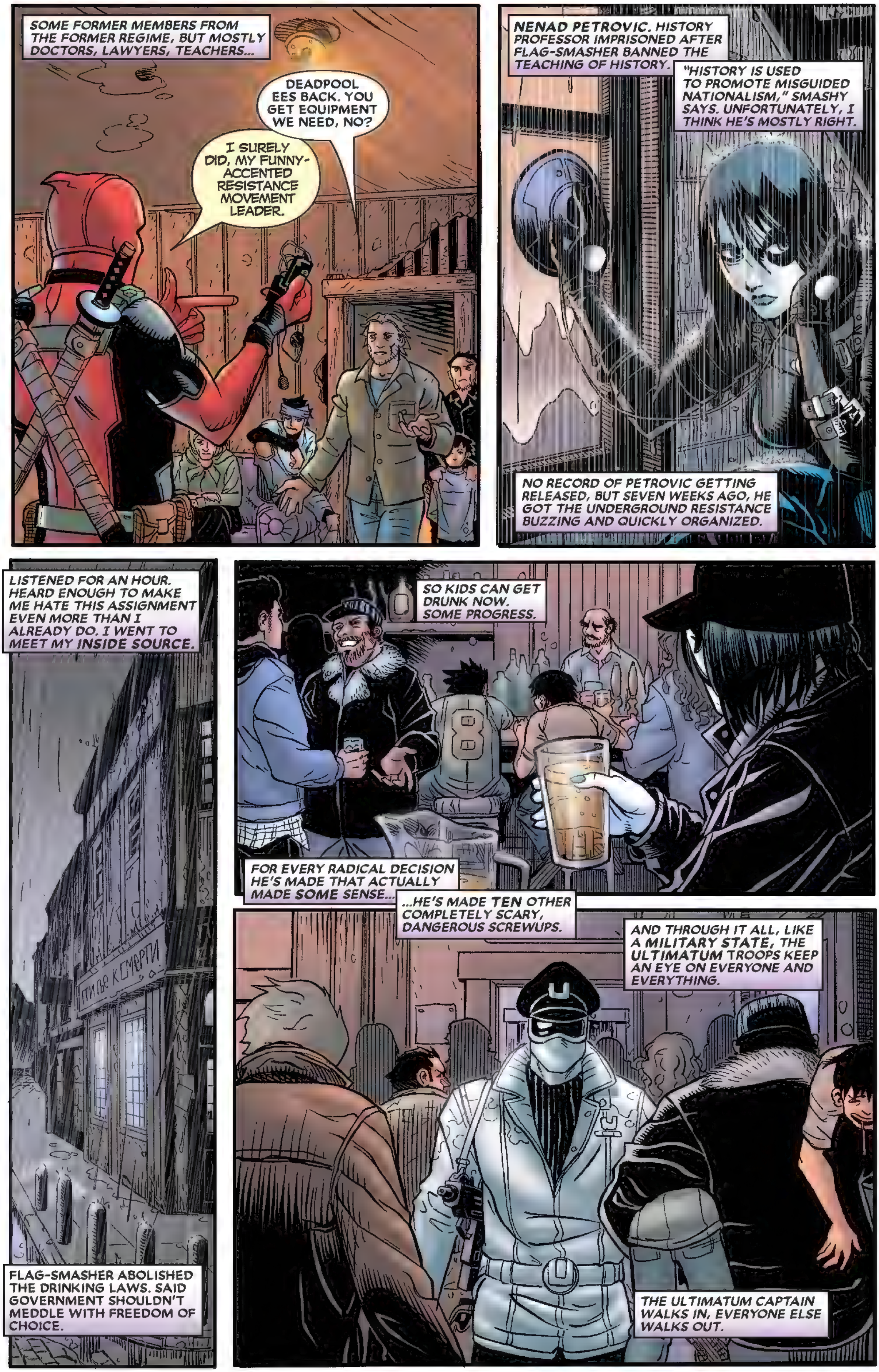
"FOR KING AND COUNTRY"

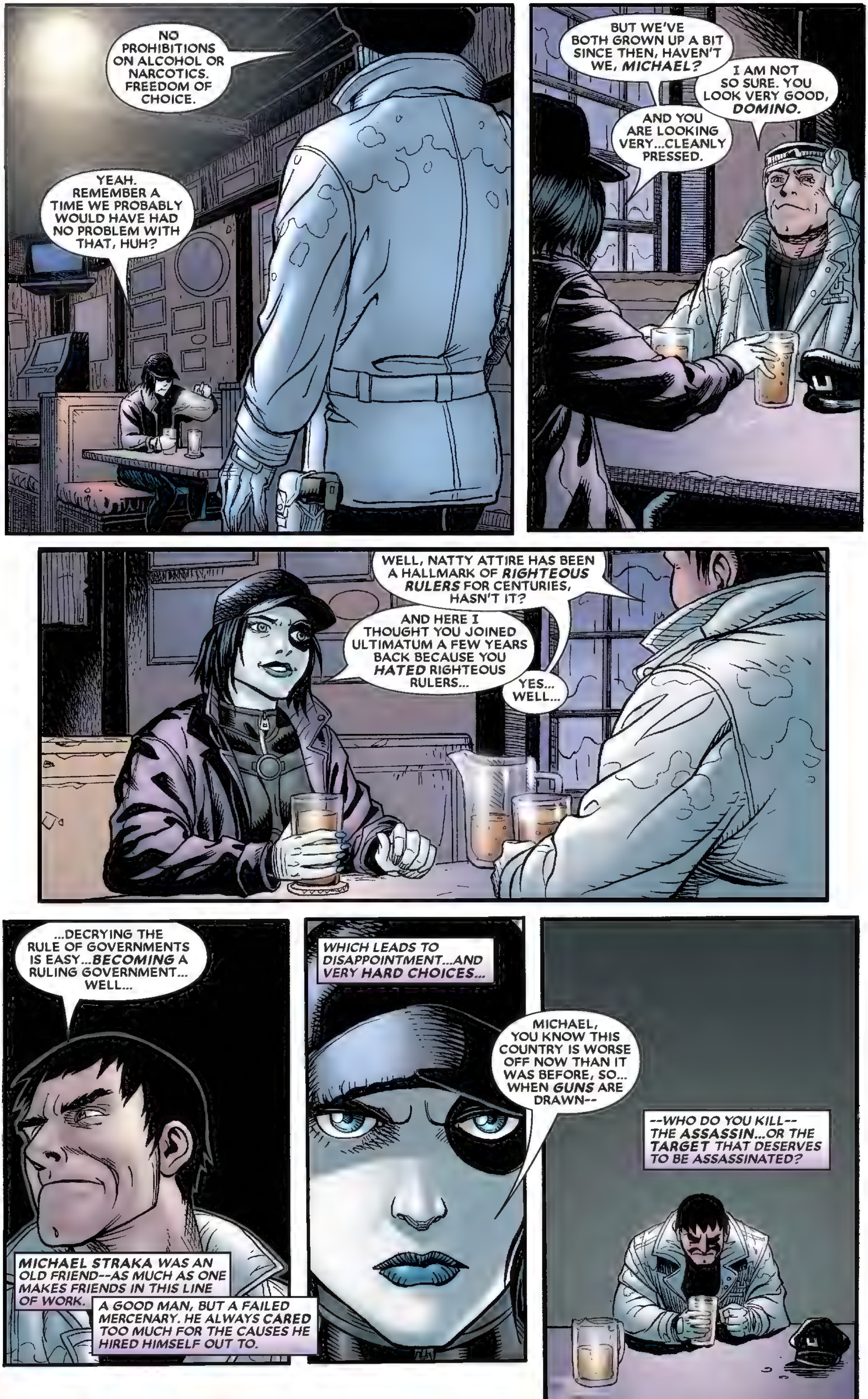

I'M WADE WILSON--YOU KNOW AND LOVE ME AS DEADPOOL, THE MERC WITH A MOUTH.
NORMALLY, I'D MENTION MY GOOD BUD, NATE, THE SOLDIER AND PREACHER-MON FROM THE FUTURE KNOWN AS CABLE, BUT HE'S BARELY IN THIS ISSUE, SO...
...LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR VERY FIRST EVER GUEST HERE ON THE NIGHTCAP SHOW--
Nightcap with Wade Wilson
--THE MERCENARY MUTANT MISTRESS OF MISCHIEF--DOMINO!
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S A RECAP PAGE. WE EXPLAIN STUFF TO OUR READERS.
READERS--?
IT'S A FOURTH WALL THING. DON'T BE ALL TENSE FOR A CHANGE AND GO WITH THE FLOW.
SO YOU GOT HIRED TO FIND OUT WHY I'VE BEEN GOING TO THE MADE-UP CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRY OF RUMEKISTAN.
GEEZ--THIS IS YOU CALM, HUH? I READ LAST ISSUE, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S A FOURTH WALL THING!
⋟SIGH⋞
ANYWAY, MONTHS AGO, RUMEKISTAN WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE BORDER-HATING TERRORIST KNOWN AS FLAG-SMASHER--
--WHO WENT AND TURNED A BOWL OF CRAP INTO A SIX-COURSE CRAP FEAST--
--AND NOW, THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IS READY TO LIBERATE THE COUNTRY BY TAKING OUT THE NEW DICTATOR! YAY! I ALWAYS THOUGHT DEMOCRACY WORKED BEST THROUGH ASSASSINATION, DON'TCHA THINK?
NO...WHICH IS WHY I WAS HIRED. TO FIND OUT...
...WHAT IF FLAG-SMASHER'S REPLACEMENT IS WORSE...?

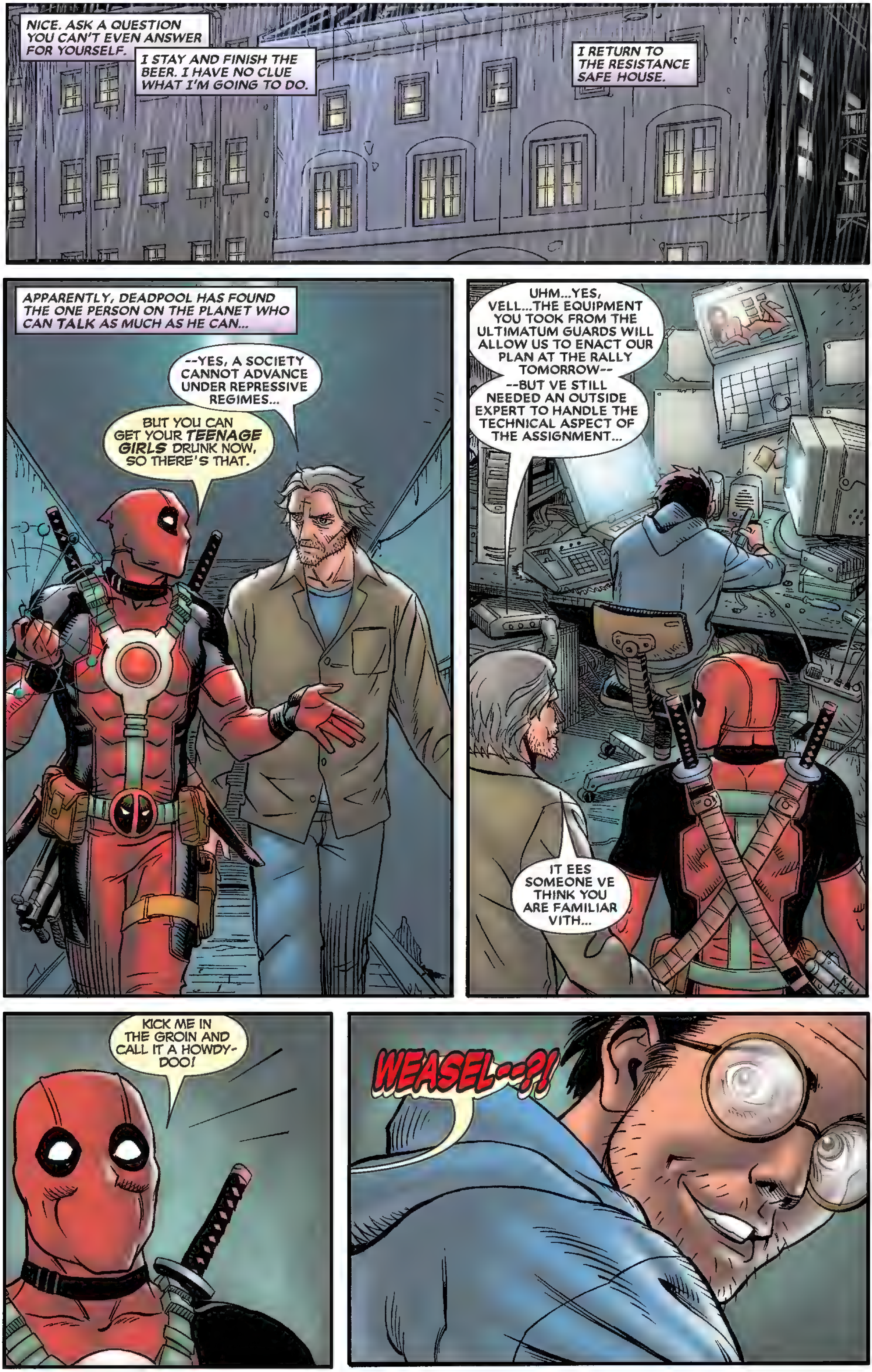

BĂRJÑŐV--CAPITAL OF RUMEKISTAN.
This end ← toward enemy
Deadpool's Gun ®
MISSION LOG; DAY TWO; RUNNING: TRACKED WILSON AS HE FOLLOWED A UNIT OF FLAG-SMASHER'S SOLDIERS, THE ULTIMATUM.
ULTIMATUM MEMBERS ARE TRAINED TO FIGHT, BUT GOING UP AGAINST DEADPOOL IS A LITTLE BEYOND THEM.
JUST BECAUSE I HATE WILSON DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T RESPECT HIM.
NOW THAT THIS CONFIRMS DEADPOOL'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE RUMEKI RESISTANCE MOVEMENT...
...THE NEXT QUESTION IS: WHO STANDS TO GAIN BY IT?
AND JUST AS IMPORTANT: TO WHAT LENGTHS WILL THE RESISTANCE GO TO ATTAIN THEIR GOALS...AND TO WHAT LENGTHS SHOULD I GO TO STOP THEM?

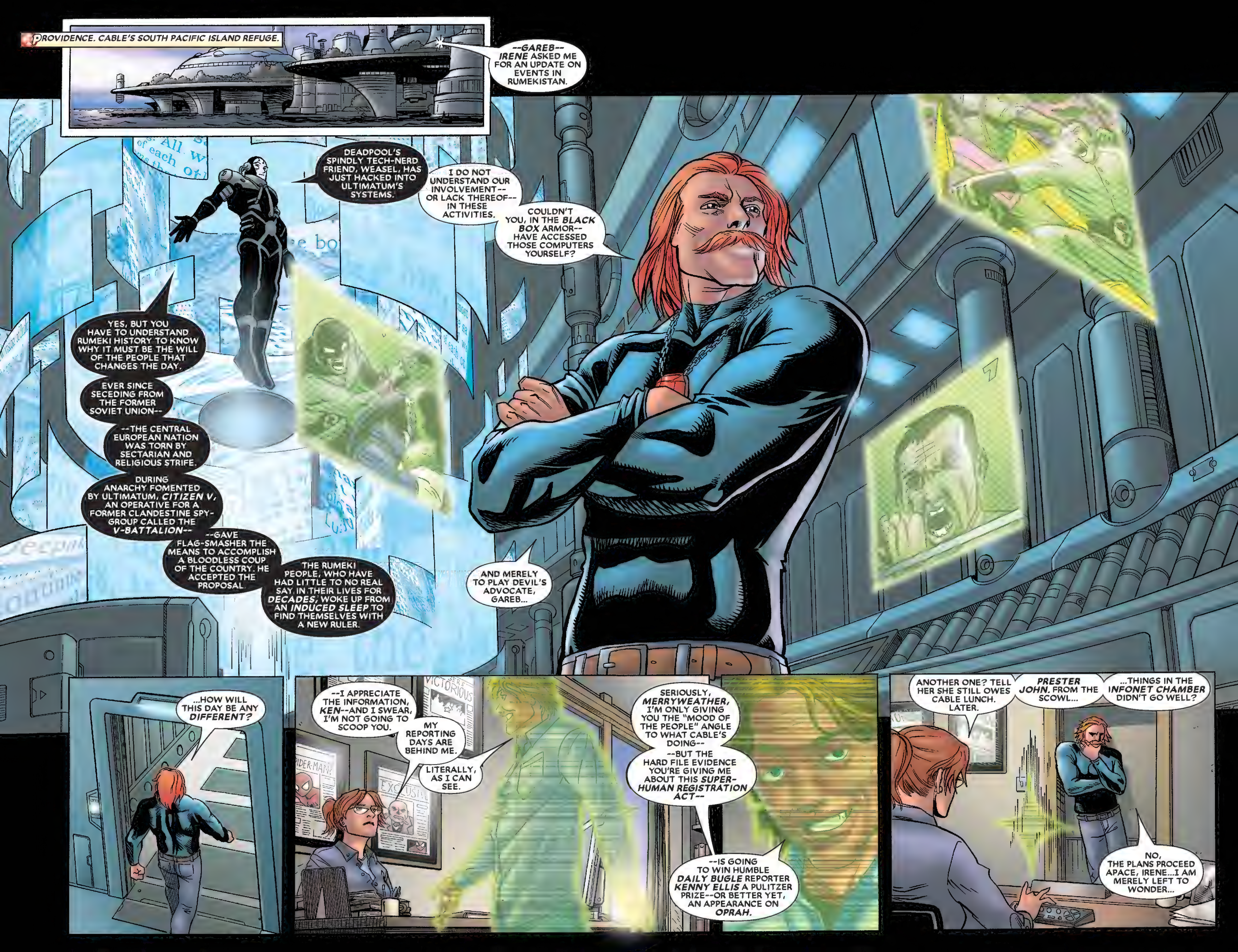

WHO **DOESN'T** HAVE A VESTED FINANCIAL, GEOGRAPHIC OR RELIGIOUS INTEREST IN THIS REGION?
RUSSIA, GERMANY, LATVERIA AND IRAN ARE ALL PLAYERS HERE.
BUT WOULD ANY OF THEM HIRE **DEADPOOL** TO GET RID OF FLAG-SMASHER FOR THEM?
SINCE THE WORLD THINKS DEADPOOL KILLED CABLE (EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T), DEADPOOL'S BEEN PRACTICALLY UNHIREABLE.
WHICH LEAVES ONLY **ONE PERSON** WHO **WOULD** HIRE HIM... **CABLE.**
NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON. MY FORMER EVERYTHING: FRIEND. ENEMY. TEAMMATE. LEADER. LOVER.
WHY WOULD NATE WANT TO TAKE OUT THE LEADER OF THIS COUNTRY?
KiLL MacHiNe
AND...TO WHAT LENGTHS WILL HE GO TO DO IT...?

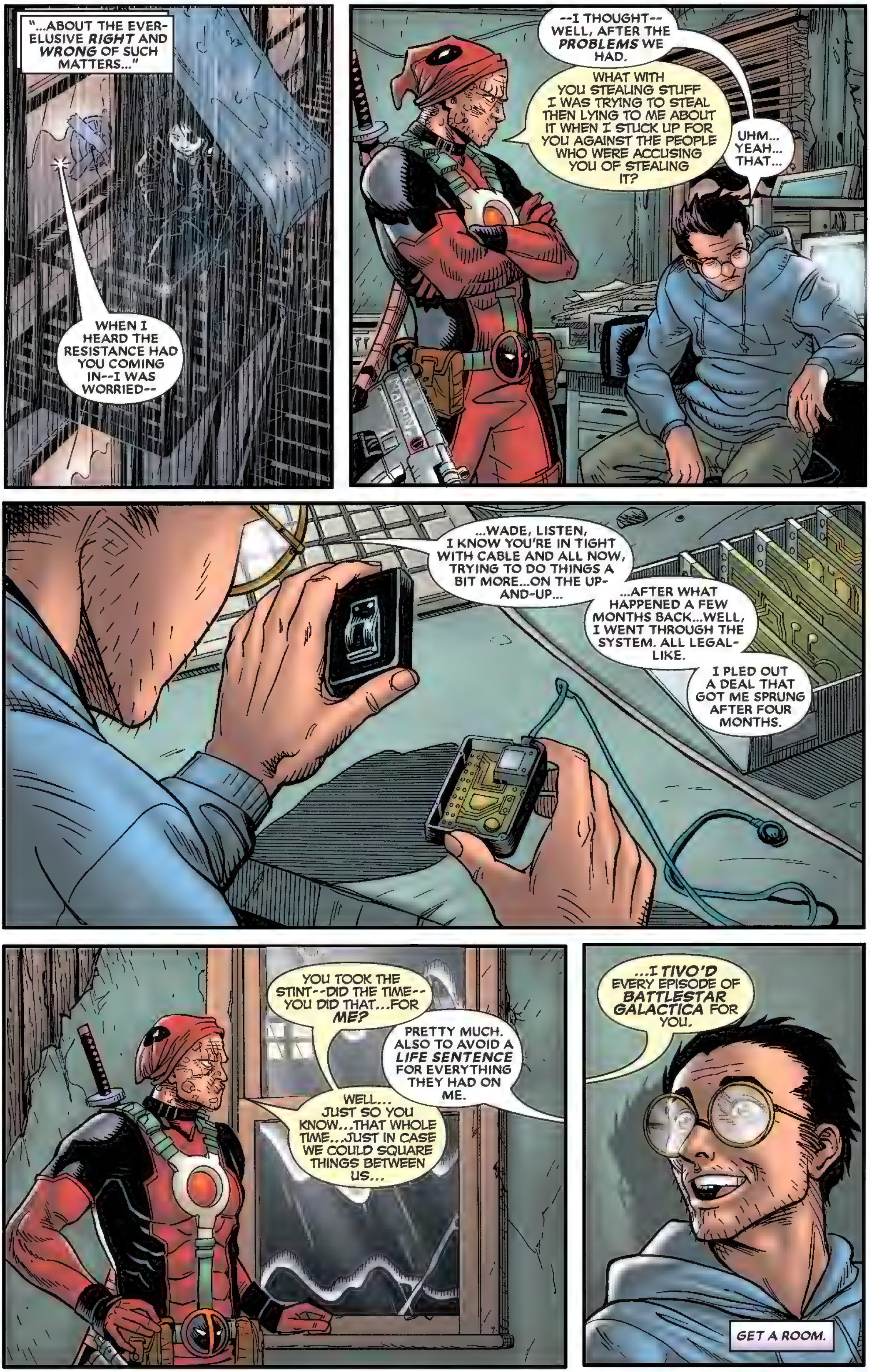

DEADPOOL'S STRIPPING THEIR COMMUNICATIONS GEAR.
THE RESISTANCE MUST NEED THE ACCESS CODES IN THE COMM SYSTEMS TO TAP INTO ULTIMATUM'S JABBER...BUT WHY WOULD THEY RISK EXPOSURE...
...UNLESS THEY'RE READY TO MAKE THEIR MOVE AGAINST FLAG-SMASHER SOONER THAN WE EXPECTED?
I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE MORE TIME...TO FIGURE THIS THROUGH...
...JUST ADMIT IT FOR THE RECORD, GIRL...
...TO FIGURE OUT WHETHER I'M GOING TO STOP THE ASSASSINATION OR NOT.
FOLLOWED WILSON TO AN OLD BUILDING IN THE KORICHYOV DISTRICT.
THE HOUSING PROGRAM WAS CREATED BY THE FORMER DICTATOR. NOW IT'S ALL JUST TENEMENT SLUMS.
THESE BUILDINGS SYMBOLIZE EVERYTHING THAT FELL APART FOR THIS COUNTRY. PERFECT PLACE FOR THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT TO SET UP SHOP.
PRE-OP INTEL SHOWS THAT THEY'RE NOT FANATICS. NO EXTREME RELIGIOUS AGENDA. NO SINGLE WANNABE DICTATOR SPEAKING FOR THEM.

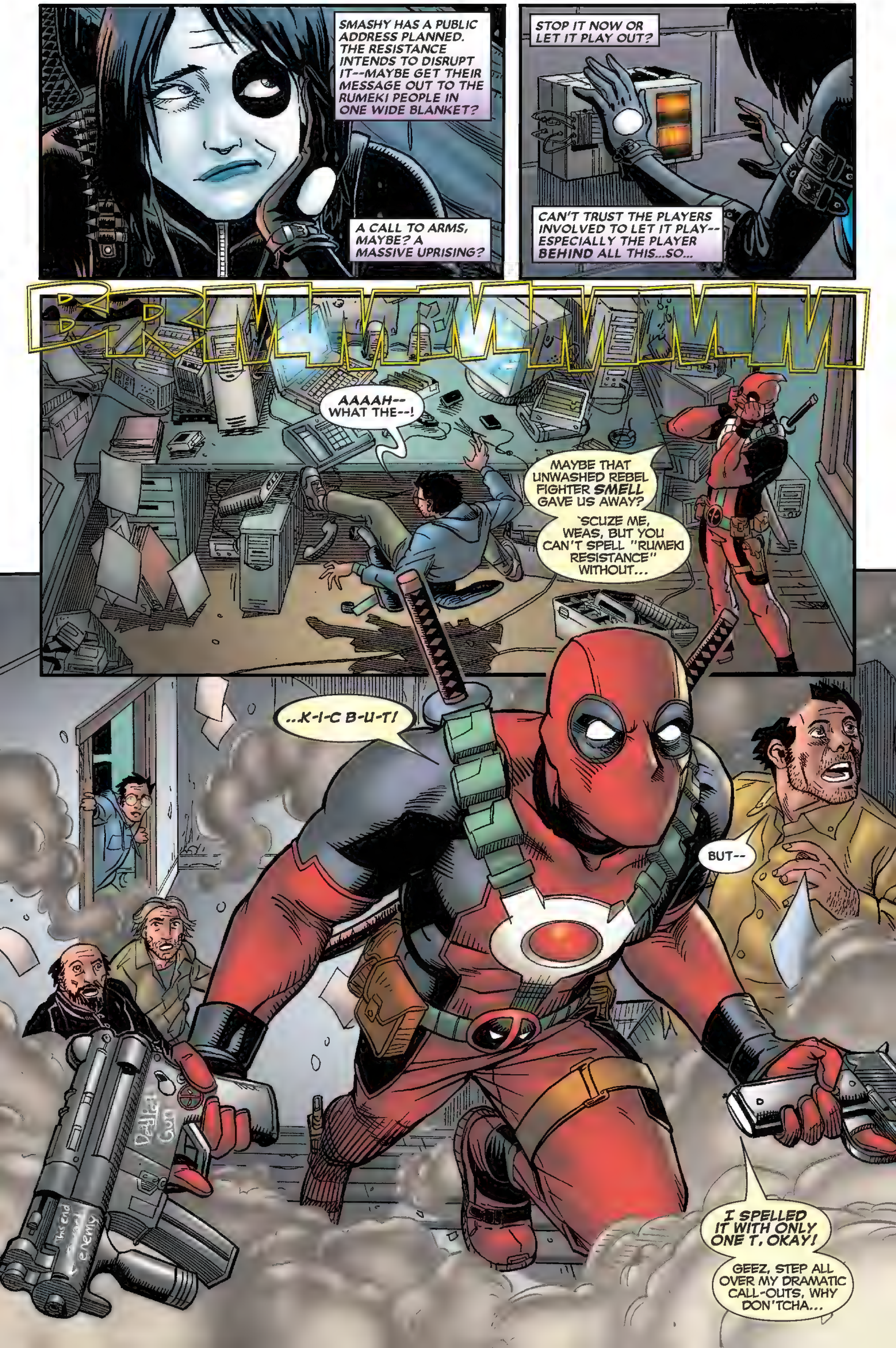

SOME FORMER MEMBERS FROM THE FORMER REGIME, BUT MOSTLY DOCTORS, LAWYERS, TEACHERS...
DEADPOOL EES BACK. YOU GET EQUIPMENT WE NEED, NO?
I SURELY DID, MY FUNNY-ACCENTED RESISTANCE MOVEMENT LEADER.
NENAD PETROVIC. HISTORY PROFESSOR IMPRISONED AFTER FLAG-SMASHER BANNED THE TEACHING OF HISTORY.
"HISTORY IS USED TO PROMOTE MISGUIDED NATIONALISM," SMASHY SAYS. UNFORTUNATELY, I THINK HE'S MOSTLY RIGHT.
NO RECORD OF PETROVIC GETTING RELEASED, BUT SEVEN WEEKS AGO, HE GOT THE UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE BUZZING AND QUICKLY ORGANIZED.
LISTENED FOR AN HOUR. HEARD ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HATE THIS ASSIGNMENT EVEN MORE THAN I ALREADY DO. I WENT TO MEET MY INSIDE SOURCE.
ПИЋЕ К СМРТИ
FLAG-SMASHER ABOLISHED THE DRINKING LAWS. SAID GOVERNMENT SHOULDN'T MEDDLE WITH FREEDOM OF CHOICE.
SO KIDS CAN GET DRUNK NOW. SOME PROGRESS.
8
FOR EVERY RADICAL DECISION HE'S MADE THAT ACTUALLY MADE SOME SENSE...
...HE'S MADE TEN OTHER COMPLETELY SCARY, DANGEROUS SCREWUPS.
AND THROUGH IT ALL, LIKE A MILITARY STATE, THE ULTIMATUM TROOPS KEEP AN EYE ON EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.
U
THE ULTIMATUM CAPTAIN WALKS IN, EVERYONE ELSE WALKS OUT.

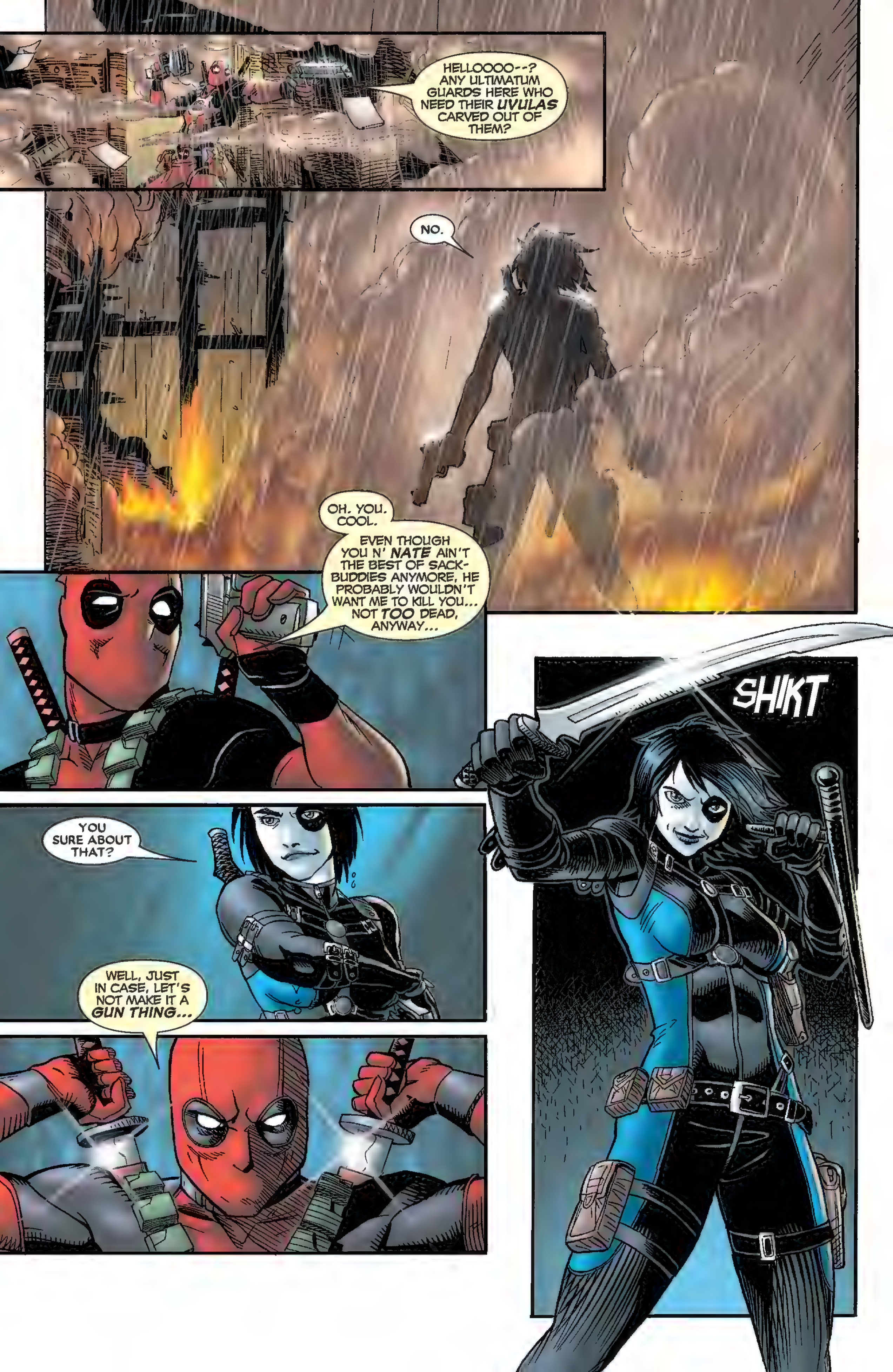

NO PROHIBITIONS ON ALCOHOL OR NARCOTICS. FREEDOM OF CHOICE.
YEAH. REMEMBER A TIME WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THAT, HUH?
BUT WE'VE BOTH GROWN UP A BIT SINCE THEN, HAVEN'T WE, *MICHAEL?*
AND YOU ARE LOOKING VERY...CLEANLY PRESSED.
I AM NOT SO SURE. YOU LOOK VERY GOOD, *DOMINO.*
WELL, NATTY ATTIRE HAS BEEN A HALLMARK OF *RIGHTEOUS RULERS* FOR CENTURIES, HASN'T IT?
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU JOINED ULTIMATUM A FEW YEARS BACK BECAUSE YOU *HATED* RIGHTEOUS RULERS...
YES... WELL...
...DECRYING THE RULE OF GOVERNMENTS IS EASY...*BECOMING* A RULING GOVERNMENT... WELL...
MICHAEL STRAKA WAS AN OLD FRIEND--AS MUCH AS ONE MAKES FRIENDS IN THIS LINE OF WORK.
*A GOOD MAN, BUT A FAILED MERCENARY. HE ALWAYS **CARED** TOO MUCH FOR THE CAUSES HE HIRED HIMSELF OUT TO.*
*WHICH LEADS TO DISAPPOINTMENT...AND VERY **HARD CHOICES...***
MICHAEL, YOU KNOW THIS COUNTRY IS WORSE OFF NOW THAN IT WAS BEFORE, SO... WHEN *GUNS* ARE DRAWN--
*--WHO DO YOU KILL-- THE **ASSASSIN**...OR THE **TARGET** THAT DESERVES TO BE ASSASSINATED?*

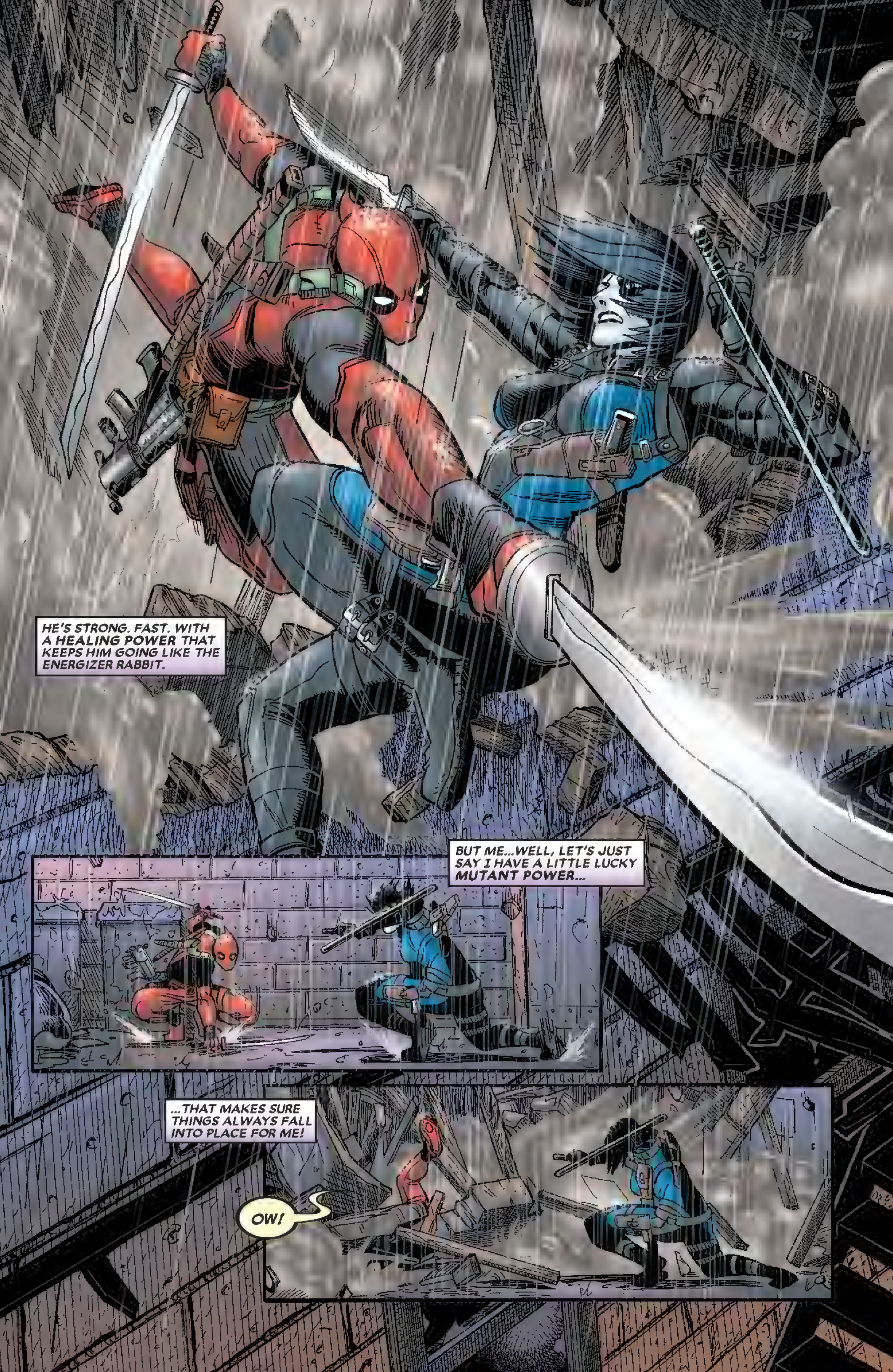

NICE. ASK A QUESTION YOU CAN'T EVEN ANSWER FOR YOURSELF.
I STAY AND FINISH THE BEER. I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
I RETURN TO THE RESISTANCE SAFE HOUSE.
APPARENTLY, DEADPOOL HAS FOUND THE ONE PERSON ON THE PLANET WHO CAN TALK AS MUCH AS HE CAN...
--YES, A SOCIETY CANNOT ADVANCE UNDER REPRESSIVE REGIMES...
BUT YOU CAN GET YOUR TEENAGE GIRLS DRUNK NOW, SO THERE'S THAT.
UHM...YES, VELL...THE EQUIPMENT YOU TOOK FROM THE ULTIMATUM GUARDS WILL ALLOW US TO ENACT OUR PLAN AT THE RALLY TOMORROW--
--BUT VE STILL NEEDED AN OUTSIDE EXPERT TO HANDLE THE TECHNICAL ASPECT OF THE ASSIGNMENT...
IT EES SOMEONE VE THINK YOU ARE FAMILIAR VITH...
KICK ME IN THE GROIN AND CALL IT A HOWDY-DOO!
WEASEL--?!

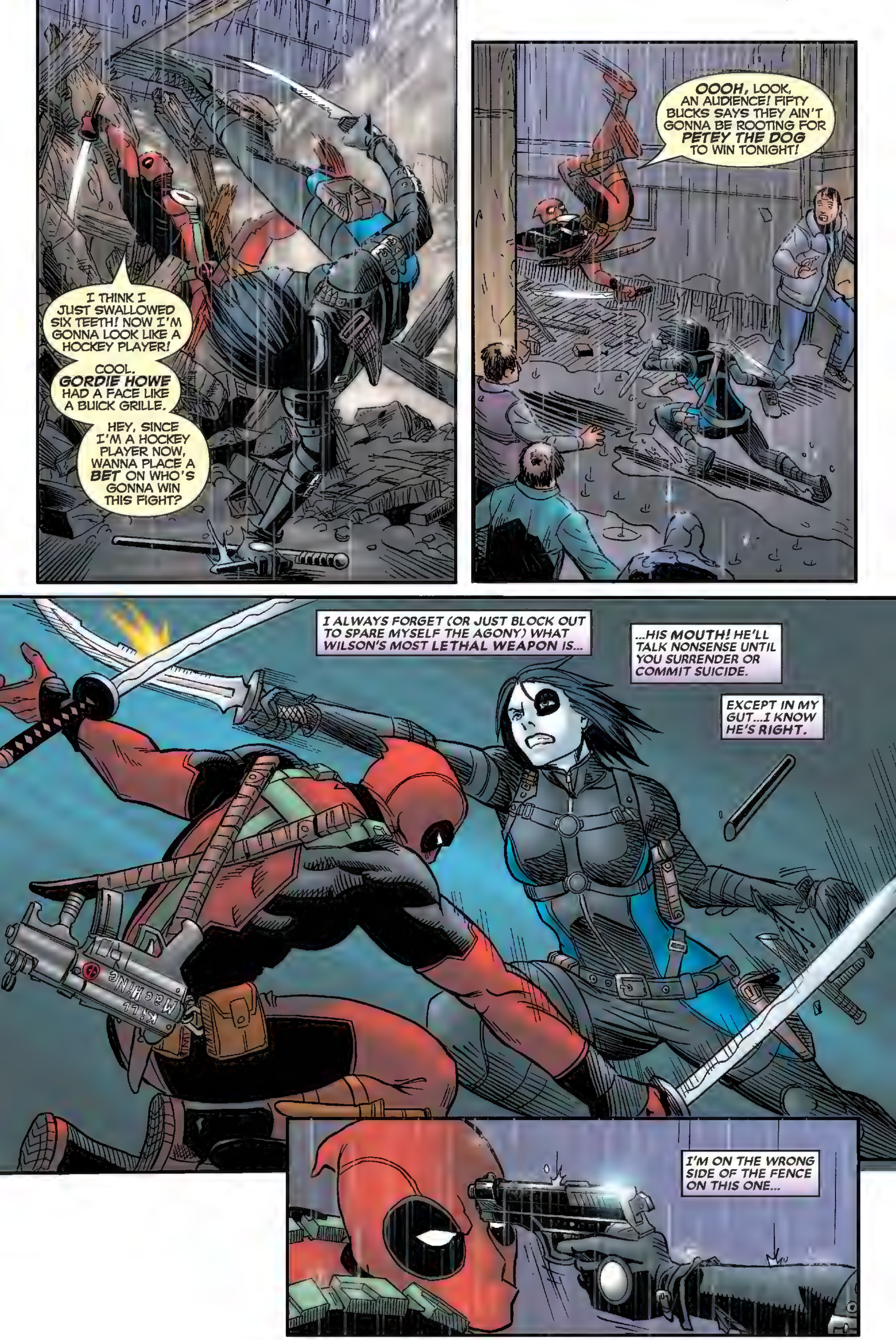

PROVIDENCE. CABLE'S SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND REFUGE.
--GAREB-- IRENE ASKED ME FOR AN UPDATE ON EVENTS IN RUMEKISTAN.
DEADPOOL'S SPINDLY TECH-NERD FRIEND, WEASEL, HAS JUST HACKED INTO ULTIMATUM'S SYSTEMS.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND OUR INVOLVEMENT-- OR LACK THEREOF-- IN THESE ACTIVITIES.
COULDN'T YOU, IN THE BLACK BOX ARMOR-- HAVE ACCESSED THOSE COMPUTERS YOURSELF?
YES, BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND RUMEKI HISTORY TO KNOW WHY IT MUST BE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE THAT CHANGES THE DAY.
EVER SINCE SECEDING FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION--
--THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN NATION WAS TORN BY SECTARIAN AND RELIGIOUS STRIFE.
DURING ANARCHY FOMENTED BY ULTIMATUM, CITIZEN V, AN OPERATIVE FOR A FORMER CLANDESTINE SPY-GROUP CALLED THE V-BATTALION--
--GAVE FLAG-SMASHER THE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH A BLOODLESS COUP OF THE COUNTRY. HE ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL.
THE RUMEKI PEOPLE, WHO HAVE HAD LITTLE TO NO REAL SAY IN THEIR LIVES FOR DECADES, WOKE UP FROM AN INDUCED SLEEP TO FIND THEMSELVES WITH A NEW RULER.
AND MERELY TO PLAY DEVIL'S ADVOCATE, GAREB...
...HOW WILL THIS DAY BE ANY DIFFERENT?
VICTORIOUS
SPIDER-MAN
EXCLUSIVE
--I APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION, KEN--AND I SWEAR, I'M NOT GOING TO SCOOP YOU.
MY REPORTING DAYS ARE BEHIND ME.
LITERALLY, AS I CAN SEE.
SERIOUSLY, MERRYWEATHER, I'M ONLY GIVING YOU THE "MOOD OF THE PEOPLE" ANGLE TO WHAT CABLE'S DOING--
--BUT THE HARD FILE EVIDENCE YOU'RE GIVING ME ABOUT THIS SUPER-HUMAN REGISTRATION ACT--
--IS GOING TO WIN HUMBLE DAILY BUGLE REPORTER KENNY ELLIS A PULITZER PRIZE--OR BETTER YET, AN APPEARANCE ON OPRAH.
ANOTHER ONE? TELL HER SHE STILL OWES CABLE LUNCH. LATER.
PRESTER JOHN. FROM THE SCOWL...
...THINGS IN THE INFONET CHAMBER DIDN'T GO WELL?
NO, THE PLANS PROCEED APACE, IRENE...I AM MERELY LEFT TO WONDER...

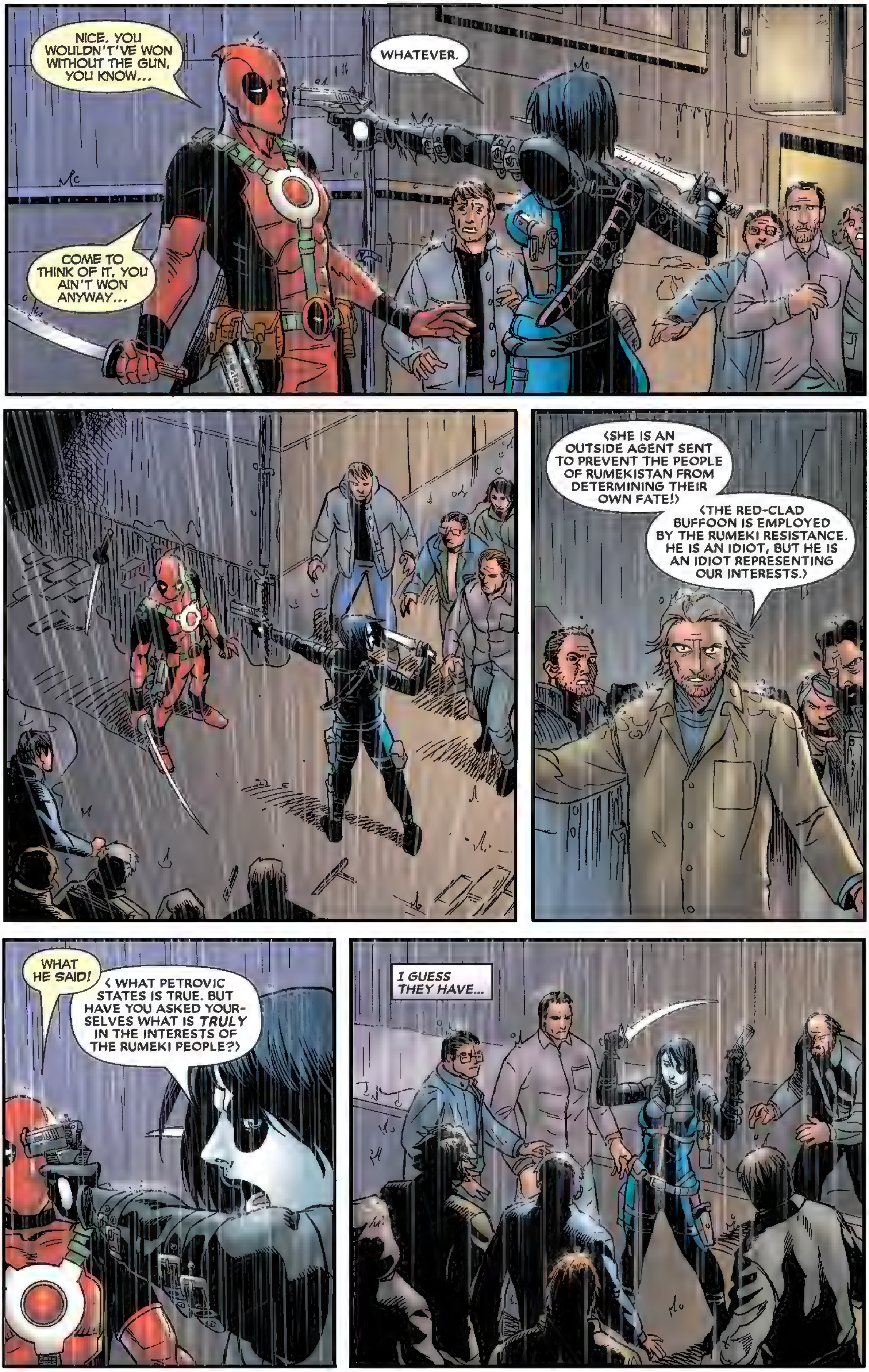

"...ABOUT THE EVER-ELUSIVE *RIGHT* AND *WRONG* OF SUCH MATTERS..."
WHEN I HEARD THE RESISTANCE HAD YOU COMING IN--I WAS WORRIED--
--I THOUGHT--WELL, AFTER THE *PROBLEMS* WE HAD.
WHAT WITH YOU STEALING STUFF I WAS TRYING TO STEAL THEN LYING TO ME ABOUT IT WHEN I STUCK UP FOR YOU AGAINST THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ACCUSING YOU OF STEALING IT?
UHM... YEAH... THAT...
...WADE, LISTEN, I KNOW YOU'RE IN TIGHT WITH CABLE AND ALL NOW, TRYING TO DO THINGS A BIT MORE...ON THE UP-AND-UP...
...AFTER WHAT HAPPENED A FEW MONTHS BACK...WELL, I WENT THROUGH THE SYSTEM. ALL LEGAL-LIKE.
I PLED OUT A DEAL THAT GOT ME SPRUNG AFTER FOUR MONTHS.
YOU TOOK THE STINT--DID THE TIME--YOU DID THAT...FOR *ME?*
PRETTY MUCH. ALSO TO AVOID A *LIFE SENTENCE* FOR EVERYTHING THEY HAD ON ME.
WELL... JUST SO YOU KNOW...THAT WHOLE TIME...JUST IN CASE WE COULD SQUARE THINGS BETWEEN US...
...I *TIVO'D* EVERY EPISODE OF *BATTLESTAR GALACTICA* FOR YOU.
GET A ROOM.

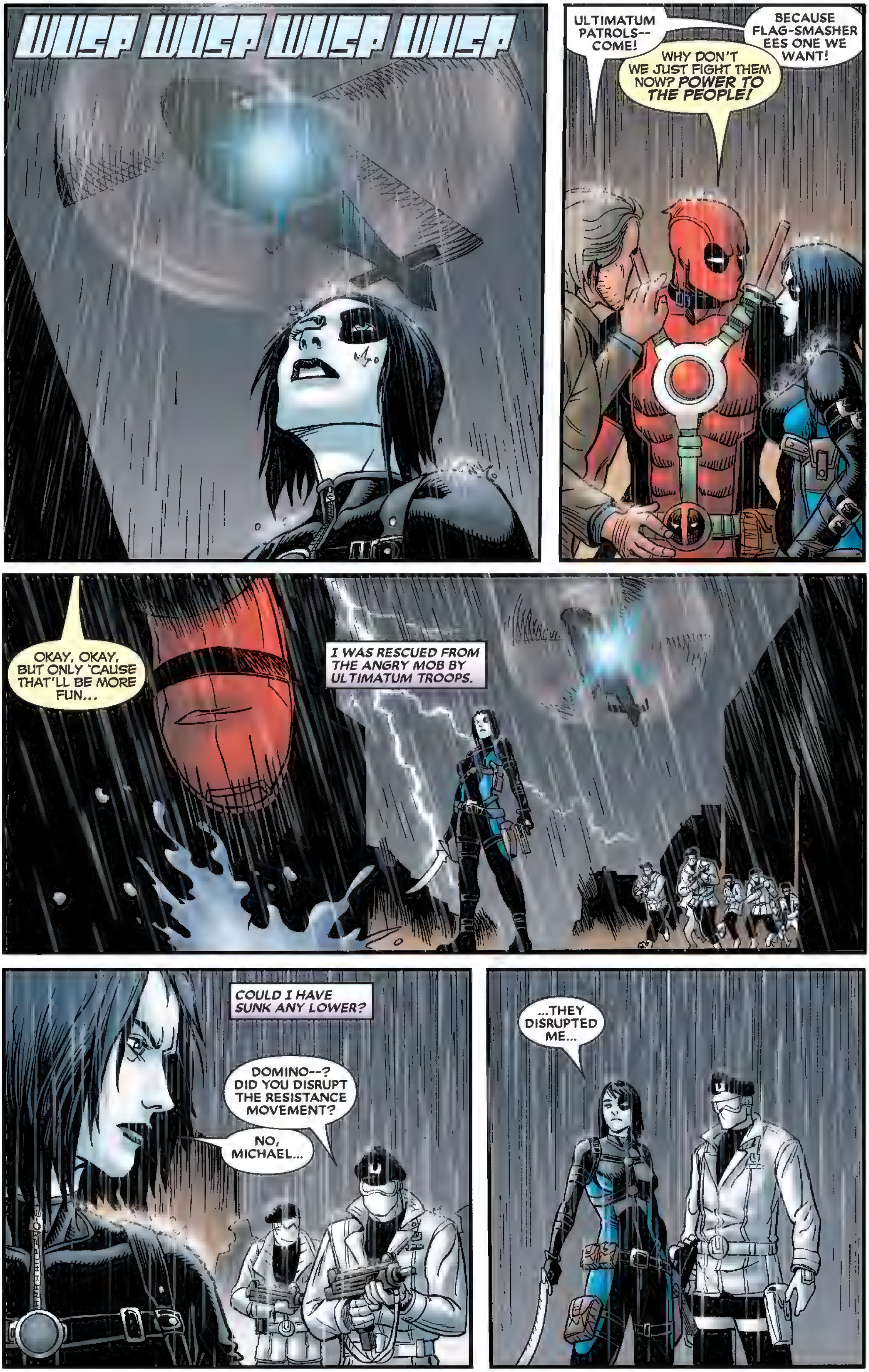

SMASHY HAS A PUBLIC ADDRESS PLANNED. THE RESISTANCE INTENDS TO DISRUPT IT--MAYBE GET THEIR MESSAGE OUT TO THE RUMEKI PEOPLE IN ONE WIDE BLANKET?
A CALL TO ARMS, MAYBE? A MASSIVE UPRISING?
STOP IT NOW OR LET IT PLAY OUT?
CAN'T TRUST THE PLAYERS INVOLVED TO LET IT PLAY-- ESPECIALLY THE PLAYER BEHIND ALL THIS...SO...
BRRMMMMMMMM
AAAAH-- WHAT THE--!
MAYBE THAT UNWASHED REBEL FIGHTER SMELL GAVE US AWAY?
'SCUZE ME, WEAS, BUT YOU CAN'T SPELL "RUMEKI RESISTANCE" WITHOUT...
..K-I-C B-U-T!
BUT--
I SPELLED IT WITH ONLY ONE T, OKAY!
GEEZ, STEP ALL OVER MY DRAMATIC CALL-OUTS, WHY DON'TCHA...

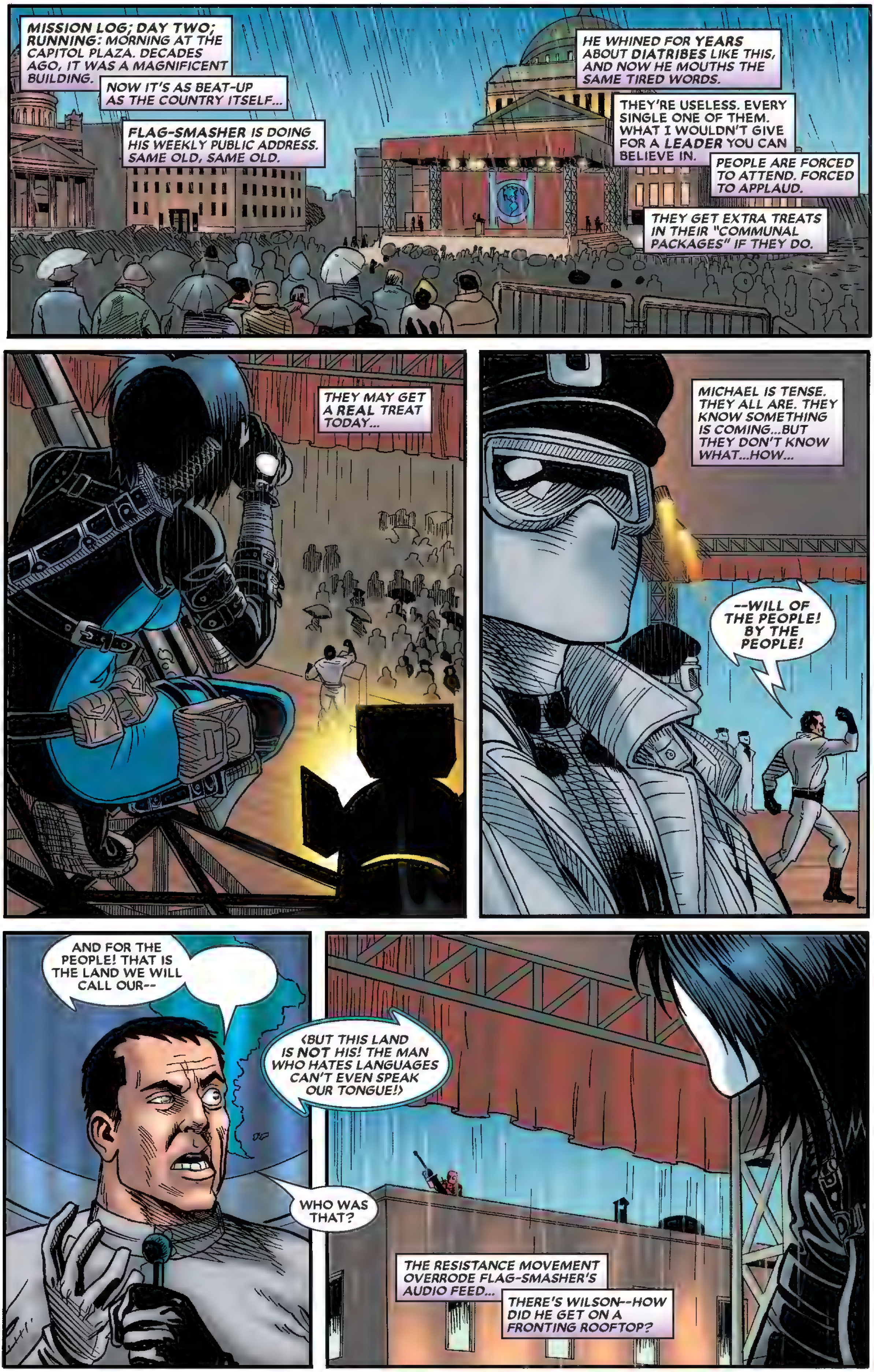

HELLOOOO--? ANY ULTIMATUM GUARDS HERE WHO NEED THEIR **UVULAS** CARVED OUT OF THEM?
NO.
OH. YOU. COOL.
EVEN THOUGH YOU N' **NATE** AIN'T THE BEST OF SACK-BUDDIES ANYMORE, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T WANT ME TO KILL YOU... NOT **TOO** DEAD, ANYWAY...
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
WELL, JUST IN CASE, LET'S NOT MAKE IT A **GUN THING...**
SHIKT

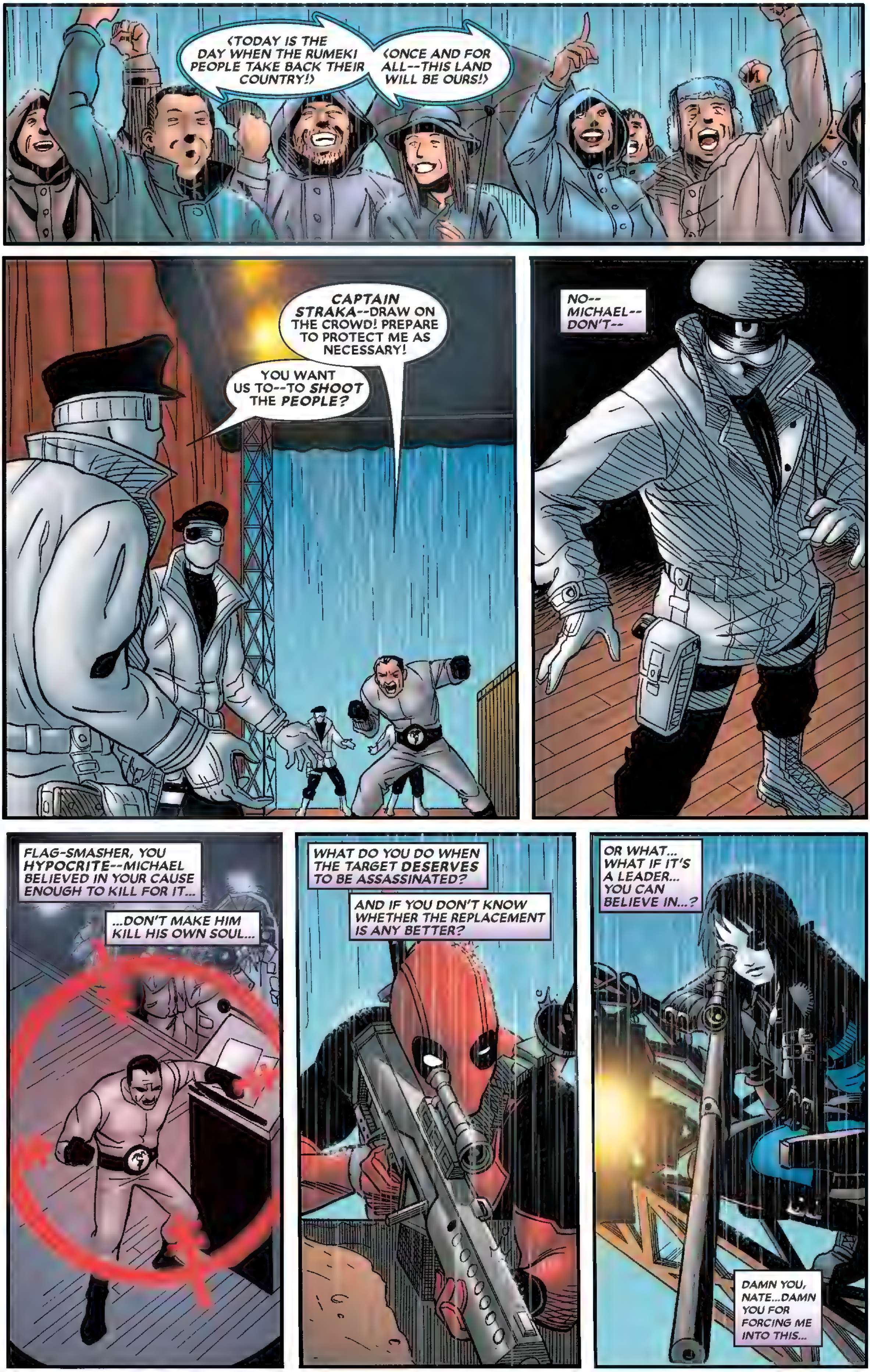

HE'S STRONG. FAST. WITH A HEALING POWER THAT KEEPS HIM GOING LIKE THE ENERGIZER RABBIT.
BUT ME...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I HAVE A LITTLE LUCKY MUTANT POWER...
...THAT MAKES SURE THINGS ALWAYS FALL INTO PLACE FOR ME!
OW!

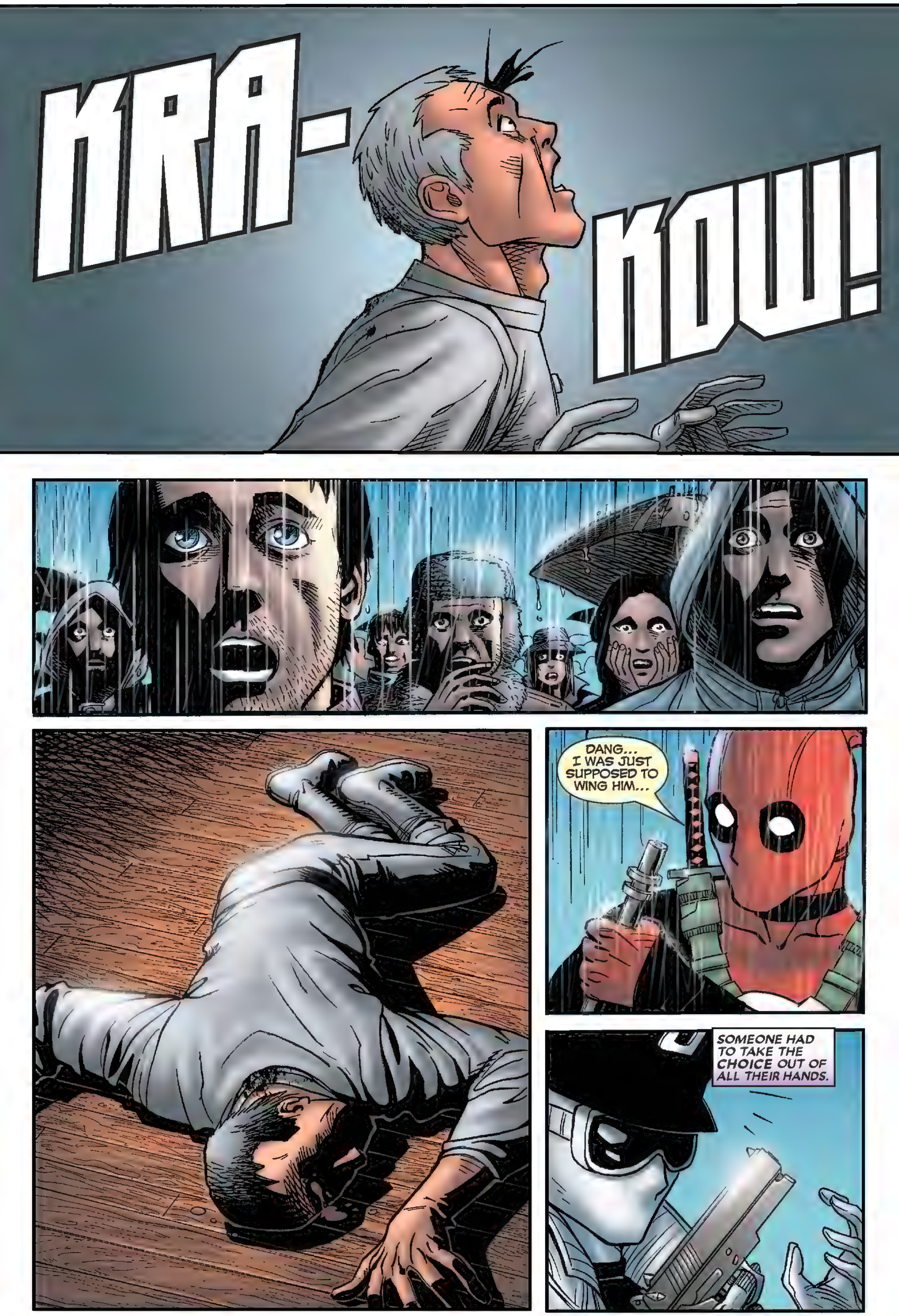

I THINK I JUST SWALLOWED SIX TEETH! NOW I'M GONNA LOOK LIKE A HOCKEY PLAYER!
COOL. **GORDIE HOWE** HAD A FACE LIKE A BUICK GRILLE.
HEY, SINCE I'M A HOCKEY PLAYER NOW, WANNA PLACE A **BET** ON WHO'S GONNA WIN THIS FIGHT?
OOOH, LOOK, AN AUDIENCE! FIFTY BUCKS SAYS THEY AIN'T GONNA BE ROOTING FOR **PETEY THE DOG** TO WIN TONIGHT!
I ALWAYS FORGET (OR JUST BLOCK OUT TO SPARE MYSELF THE AGONY) WHAT WILSON'S MOST **LETHAL WEAPON** IS...
...HIS **MOUTH!** HE'LL TALK NONSENSE UNTIL YOU SURRENDER OR COMMIT SUICIDE.
EXCEPT IN MY GUT...I KNOW HE'S **RIGHT.**
Kill Machine
I'M ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE FENCE ON THIS ONE...

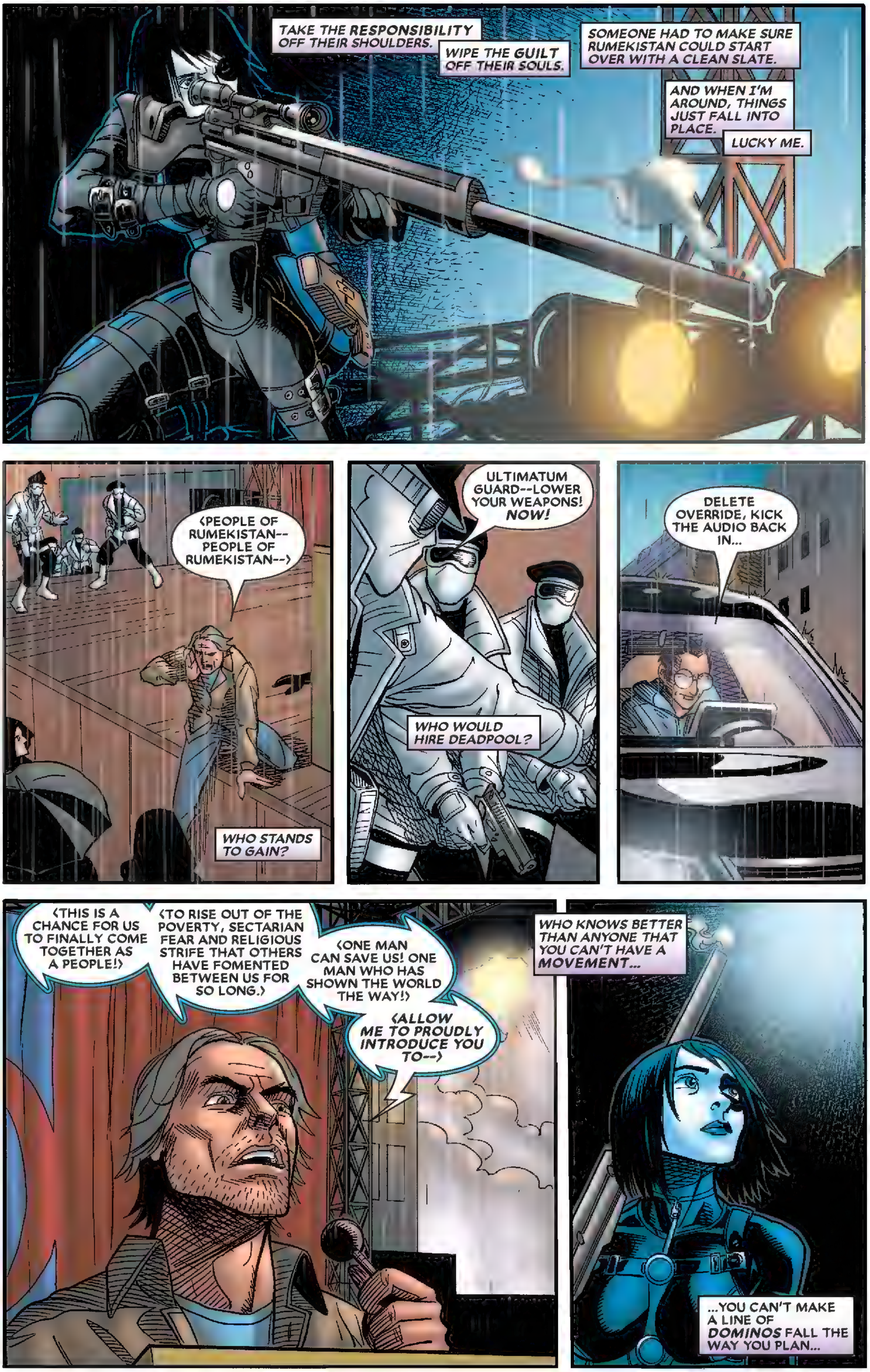

NICE. YOU WOULDN'T'VE WON WITHOUT THE GUN, YOU KNOW...
WHATEVER.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU AIN'T WON ANYWAY...
‹SHE IS AN OUTSIDE AGENT SENT TO PREVENT THE PEOPLE OF RUMEKISTAN FROM DETERMINING THEIR OWN FATE!›
‹THE RED-CLAD BUFFOON IS EMPLOYED BY THE RUMEKI RESISTANCE. HE IS AN IDIOT, BUT HE IS AN IDIOT REPRESENTING OUR INTERESTS.›
WHAT HE SAID!
‹ WHAT PETROVIC STATES IS TRUE. BUT HAVE YOU ASKED YOURSELVES WHAT IS *TRULY* IN THE INTERESTS OF THE RUMEKI PEOPLE?›
I GUESS THEY HAVE...

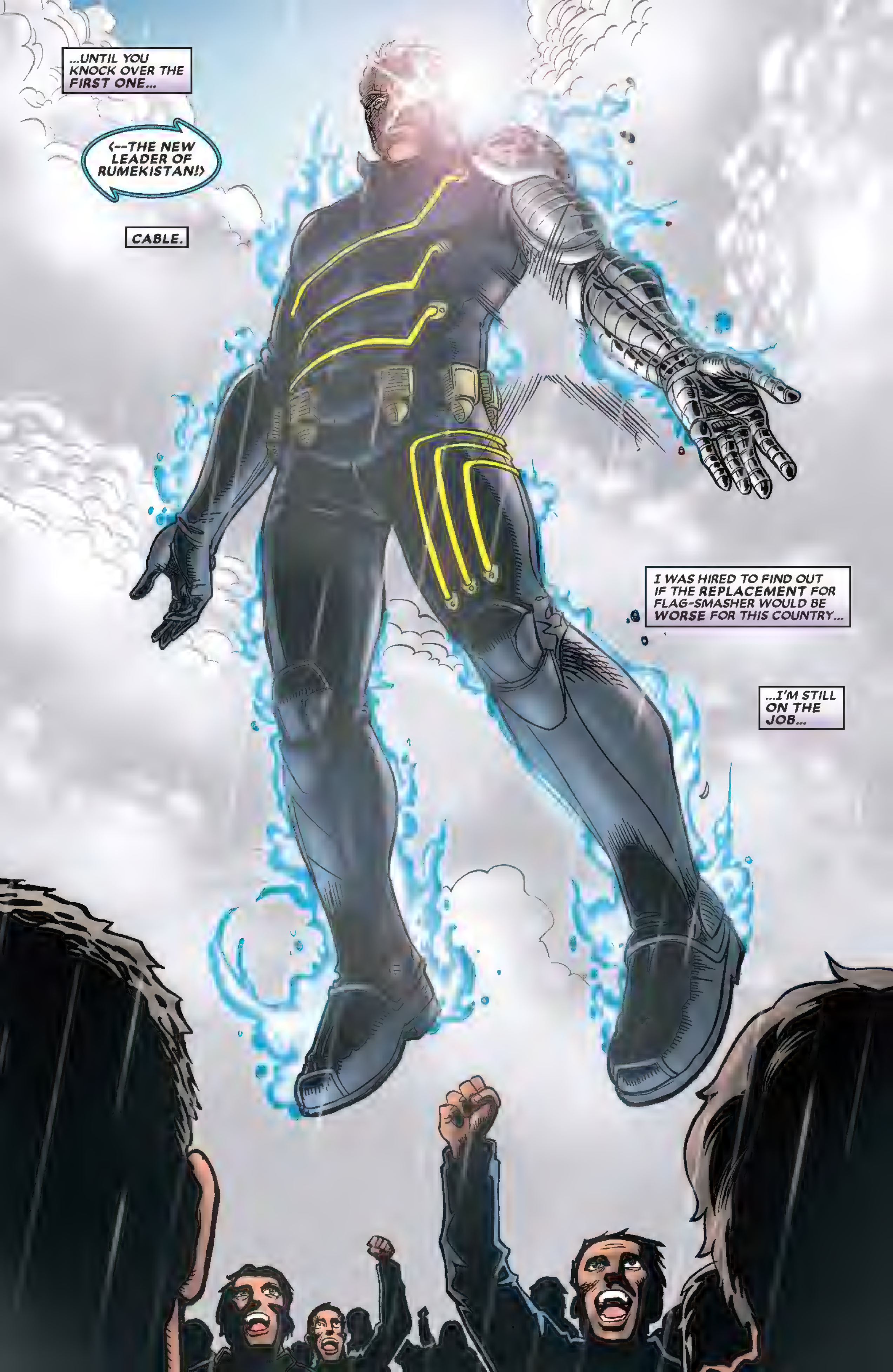

WUSP WUSP WUSP WUSP
ULTIMATUM PATROLS--COME!
BECAUSE FLAG-SMASHER EES ONE WE WANT!
WHY DON'T WE JUST FIGHT THEM NOW? POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
OKAY, OKAY, BUT ONLY 'CAUSE THAT'LL BE MORE FUN...
I WAS RESCUED FROM THE ANGRY MOB BY ULTIMATUM TROOPS.
COULD I HAVE SUNK ANY LOWER?
DOMINO--? DID YOU DISRUPT THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT?
NO, MICHAEL...
...THEY DISRUPTED ME...


MISSION LOG; DAY TWO; RUNNING: MORNING AT THE CAPITOL PLAZA. DECADES AGO, IT WAS A MAGNIFICENT BUILDING.
NOW IT'S AS BEAT-UP AS THE COUNTRY ITSELF...
FLAG-SMASHER IS DOING HIS WEEKLY PUBLIC ADDRESS. SAME OLD, SAME OLD.
HE WHINED FOR YEARS ABOUT DIATRIBES LIKE THIS, AND NOW HE MOUTHS THE SAME TIRED WORDS.
THEY'RE USELESS. EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM. WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A LEADER YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.
PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO ATTEND. FORCED TO APPLAUD.
THEY GET EXTRA TREATS IN THEIR "COMMUNAL PACKAGES" IF THEY DO.
THEY MAY GET A REAL TREAT TODAY...
MICHAEL IS TENSE. THEY ALL ARE. THEY KNOW SOMETHING IS COMING...BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT...HOW...
--WILL OF THE PEOPLE! BY THE PEOPLE!
AND FOR THE PEOPLE! THAT IS THE LAND WE WILL CALL OUR--
‹BUT THIS LAND IS NOT HIS! THE MAN WHO HATES LANGUAGES CAN'T EVEN SPEAK OUR TONGUE!›
WHO WAS THAT?
THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT OVERRODE FLAG-SMASHER'S AUDIO FEED...
THERE'S WILSON--HOW DID HE GET ON A FRONTING ROOFTOP?


‹TODAY IS THE DAY WHEN THE RUMEKI PEOPLE TAKE BACK THEIR COUNTRY!›
‹ONCE AND FOR ALL--THIS LAND WILL BE OURS!›
CAPTAIN STRAKA--DRAW ON THE CROWD! PREPARE TO PROTECT ME AS NECESSARY!
YOU WANT US TO--TO SHOOT THE PEOPLE?
NO-- MICHAEL-- DON'T--
FLAG-SMASHER, YOU HYPOCRITE--MICHAEL BELIEVED IN YOUR CAUSE ENOUGH TO KILL FOR IT...
...DON'T MAKE HIM KILL HIS OWN SOUL...
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE TARGET DESERVES TO BE ASSASSINATED?
AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE REPLACEMENT IS ANY BETTER?
OR WHAT... WHAT IF IT'S A LEADER... YOU CAN BELIEVE IN...?
DAMN YOU, NATE...DAMN YOU FOR FORCING ME INTO THIS...


KRA-
KOW!
DANG... I WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO WING HIM...
SOMEONE HAD TO TAKE THE CHOICE OUT OF ALL THEIR HANDS.


TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OFF THEIR SHOULDERS.
WIPE THE GUILT OFF THEIR SOULS.
SOMEONE HAD TO MAKE SURE RUMEKISTAN COULD START OVER WITH A CLEAN SLATE.
AND WHEN I'M AROUND, THINGS JUST FALL INTO PLACE.
LUCKY ME.
‹PEOPLE OF RUMEKISTAN-- PEOPLE OF RUMEKISTAN--›
WHO STANDS TO GAIN?
ULTIMATUM GUARD--LOWER YOUR WEAPONS! NOW!
WHO WOULD HIRE DEADPOOL?
DELETE OVERRIDE, KICK THE AUDIO BACK IN...
‹THIS IS A CHANCE FOR US TO FINALLY COME TOGETHER AS A PEOPLE!›
‹TO RISE OUT OF THE POVERTY, SECTARIAN FEAR AND RELIGIOUS STRIFE THAT OTHERS HAVE FOMENTED BETWEEN US FOR SO LONG.›
‹ONE MAN CAN SAVE US! ONE MAN WHO HAS SHOWN THE WORLD THE WAY!›
‹ALLOW ME TO PROUDLY INTRODUCE YOU TO--›
WHO KNOWS BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE A MOVEMENT...
...YOU CAN'T MAKE A LINE OF DOMINOS FALL THE WAY YOU PLAN...


...UNTIL YOU KNOCK OVER THE FIRST ONE...
‹--THE NEW LEADER OF RUMEKISTAN!›
CABLE.
I WAS HIRED TO FIND OUT IF THE REPLACEMENT FOR FLAG-SMASHER WOULD BE WORSE FOR THIS COUNTRY...
...I'M STILL ON THE JOB...

DEAR DEADPOOL

AWARDS ISSUE!

In celebration of getting named Funniest Letters Page by Wizard Magazine, we're gonna honor our readers by granting an Award for every letter! Wizard even called Cable a "Character to Watch," whatever that means. I've watched the dude, trust me, he ain't much to look at. Cross Howie Long with a Buick. Anyway, we'll see what those wonderful folks at Wizard have to say about us in coming months before we plug their magazine anymore.

Dearest Deadpool,

After those most riveting Darkforce scenes [*CDP* 20-23], the beautifully scripted *Bosom Buddies* arc [also *CDP* 20-23], and the throwing of Peter Parker off a bridge [*CDP* 24], I thought my misguided adoration of you could reach no greater height.

And then you went and used footnotes [*Dear Deadpool*, *CDP* 25].

Be still, my heart. What can I say? I like a man who knows his way around punctuation.

Whilst I attempt to control my raging female hormones, I do hope you pass on my most sincere thanks to Fabian for the outstanding work he has done on this series, and mete out at least a mild dose of intimidation for keeping us hanging so long on what Cable is actually *doing* on his island.

With fondest regards,
T. Gadding, Brisbane, Australia

T, your letter wins the Award for Fewest Grammar and Spelling Mistakes. Also a consolation prize for Best Letter from Brisbane, Australia. You think I know my way around punctuation, baby, you should see what I can do with an exclamation point and a semi-colon.

As for what Cable is doing on Providence, why just the other day, I saw him rearranging the furniture in his room. Go figure. So that's what he's doing. Feng Shui.

Okay so this is my first letter submitted in a while so forgive me while i shake off the cobwebs. Having recently got back into comics i started buying loads of titles trying to see what to start getting on an ongoing basis. Praise be then that i picked up yours and Nate's little book and found that humour is still alive and well in the Marvel universe. So i thought i'd write you a letter to say congrats and to try to urge you to keep up the witty comments, (pretty easy when you start fighting with the webslinger who has a fair few chortle worthy quips of his own).

One thing though, you signed your response to a letter a few issues back as DP, now i know that means Deadpool, but, dude, DP........seriously?

Keep us laughing red man
Iain
England

Congrats, Iain, your letter wins the Award for Most Mistakes. Nicole claims it's your punctuation that needs work and not your spelling, but why split hairs? I can't trust anyone who uses those unnecessary U's. When you shook off the cobwebs, did any commas fall out?

And yeah, I sometimes shorten the moniker to just DP. It's short, cute and pithy. Just like "Iain"! But why does your name have an extra I in it? Did you even spell your own name wrong? Please write back and tell us.

Hey Deadpool,

Great job getting your *** served to you by Spider-Man in issue #24. You must be slipping in your old age to lose so badly to him. That being if you could actually get old, what with your healing factor and all. Anyway, enough of my prattling criticism, and on with some questions.

1. I've been hearing rumors that Marvel may produce a movie on you. If this is true which actor would you like to play you?
2. What will your position in Marvel's mega event "Civil War" be?

These are the only questions I got. See you in a month, 'pool.

Dan Stonebridge, Brisbane, Australia

You get our Award for Best Gratuitous Lead-in to a Civil War Plug. Also, you get the consolation prize for second best letter from Brisbane, Australia, Dan.

You're lucky you don't get the My-Foot-Up-Your-Wazoo award for raggin' on me. I thought we were pretty clear in that issue that Spider-Man has the proportionate strength of a spider. And now he's got a freakin' Iron Man armor, too. Go figure.

Oooh, numbered questions!

1. Oh, a Deadpool movie question. Because, yeah, we haven't had many of those in the last 2 years. Anyway, it won't be a movie now, 'cause the budget got too high, what with Loki being my father and that trip to Asgard in the second act. Anyway, now it'll be a TV show. But I'll be a young guy learning what it takes to live with cancer and killing people. We're gonna call it *No Mercy Reef*. I'm gonna swim underwater, too, just so pre-pubescent girls and *Star Wars* fans can see me in my Speedos every week.

2. *Marvel Civil War* is gonna be a lot of fun cause I been promised the chance to hunt down lots of renegade heroes and kick the crap out of them before forcing them to sign the dotted line on some Superhuman Registration Act. I asked to hunt down Galactus, but they said he's not from Earth, and therefore, the laws don't apply to him, and I said, sure, like that ever stopped the good ol' U.S. of A from doing whatever it wants! With my luck, I'll get the Great Lakes Avengers or some other lame-o like that.

Dear Mr. Pool,

This past week I read all 25 issues of *C&DP* back to back and I realize that this book doesn't need high profile guest stars or even poop jokes because it has you in it. I also feel like I have a better view of the big picture where before I was more focused on the jokes.

There is one thing that has been really nagging at me since finishing though and I was hoping you might be able to clarify it for me. Do you prefer meatloaf or tuna casserole?

Tim Essex
okay to print

This wins the Award for Most Challenging Question. Both meat loaf and tuna casserole have many points in their favor, Tim. It comes down to the side dishes? If I'm gettin' mashed potatoes and gravy with the loaf, then there's your clear winner.

Dear Deadpool,

I dropped my chimichanga.

Lots of love, Mary

You get our Award for Most Tragic Letter, Mary. Though sad for you, I must ask, with all due respect, what were you picking up a chimichanga for with your hands, woman? That there's a fork an' knife food! Don't be a crazy risk-taking momma, you're not professionally trained the way I am.

Dear Deadpool,

I had a chimichanga for dinner and thought I should write a letter to you. I really enjoy your book and it's nice to see Cable on occasion. My invisible friend idolizes you. He took off to try and win Bea Arthur's love for you. I read this book because I like your sense of humor and sexy good looks. Now some numbered questions.

1. Can you make Domino a more permanent character in the book? It's not like she's starring in a bunch of other books.
2. What is Cable's full name?
3. Is having Apocalypse in the book improving your sales?
4. Can I have your phone number?
5. Would an issue of Cable & Deadpool be a good anniversary present for my parents?

Heather

Our Award for Best Undropped Chimichanga goes to you, Heather! I would call your invisible friend back to the twisted recesses of your addled mind, if I were you. Those who seek Bea's favor for others, inevitably wind up loving the Goddess that is B all on their very own. Which would necessitate me killing said invisible friend for even thinking of my B that way. And let's face it, Heather, that would mean killing YOU, since your invisible friend is but a figment of said addled mind.

Oooh, numbered questions!

1. Guaranteed, the second she becomes a regular in this book, six other titles all raise their hands and say, "Oooh, no, we were planning to use her in our big muckity-muck crossover story six years from now," then we won't be allowed to use her. Go figure.

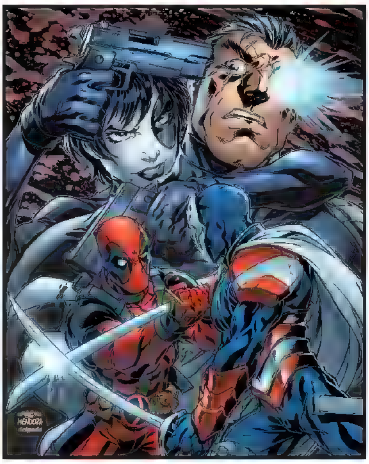
2. Geshundheit.

3. Nicole? A blip? A burp? A speed bump? Anything? I guess we'll find out come issue #37...

4. Depends. Are you a psycho?

5. Oh, most definitely, if say, you happen to be a ridiculous cheapskate of a daughter. The book costs a quarter and you're giving it away as an anniversary present? C'mon, these people gave birth to you!

Huh? What Nicole? Comics aren't a quarter anymore? How much--? THREE BUCKS? What're you, kidding me? And half of that money actually goes to pages with Cable on them? What a rip-off...



That's all for this month! Next month is Part Two of THE DOMINO PRINCIPLE as we find out what the heck CABLE has in mind, what the heck DOMINO is gonna do now and what the heck am I doing fighting some mook called CITIZEN V? Original Fabian pal RON LIM is our guest artist, wowing us with his great art and amazing mind-boggling ability to meet deadlines!

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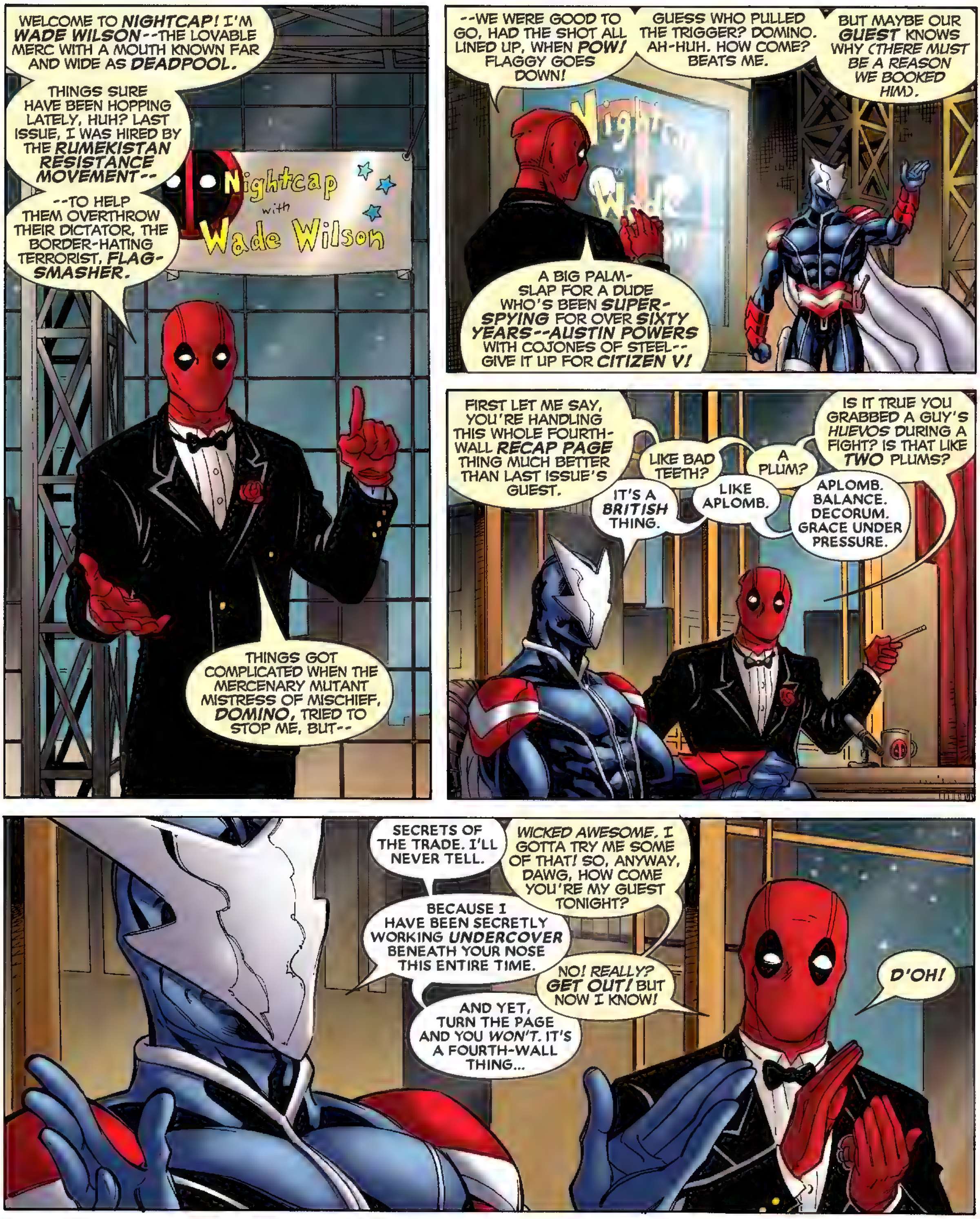
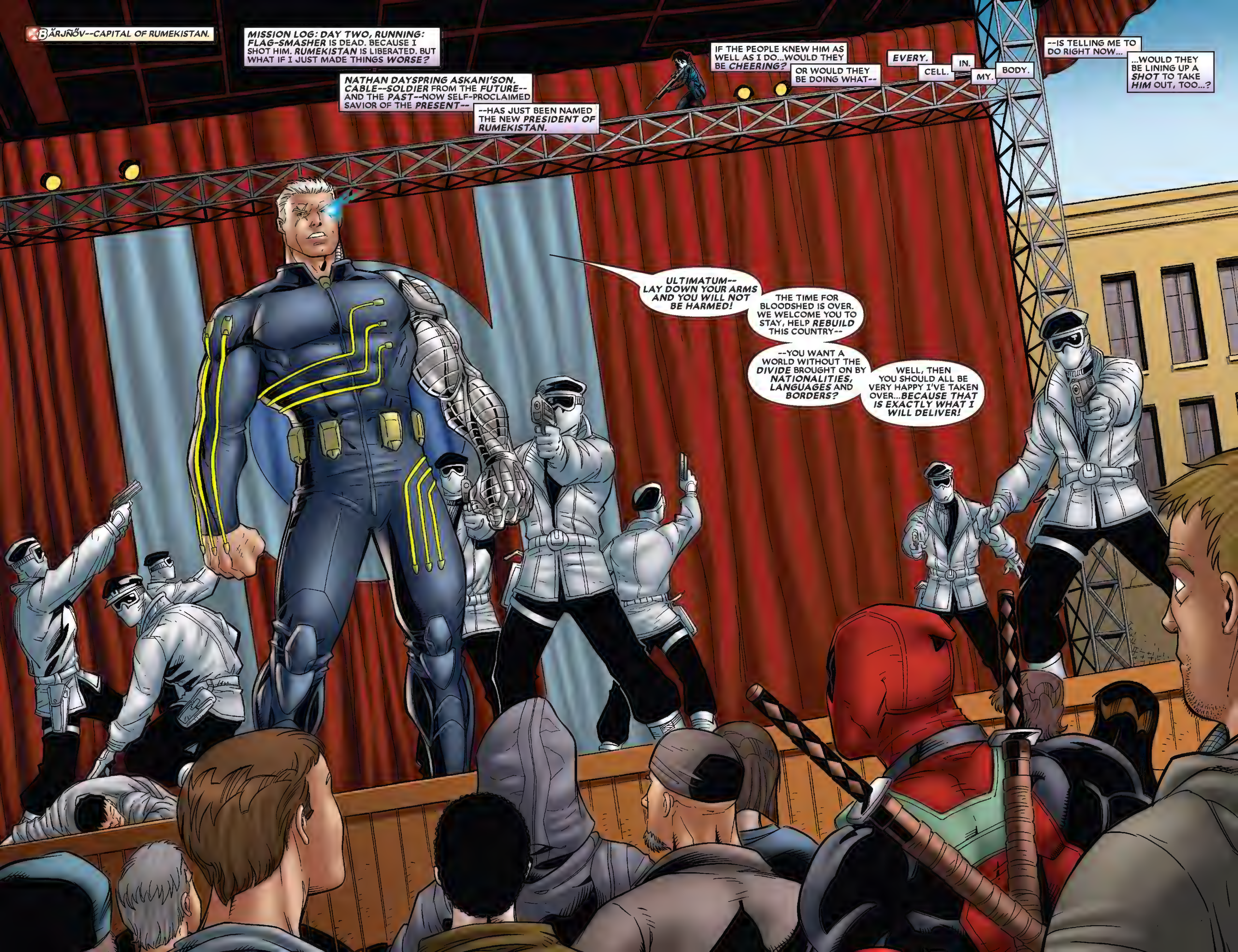
ROOK
MENDOZA
delgado

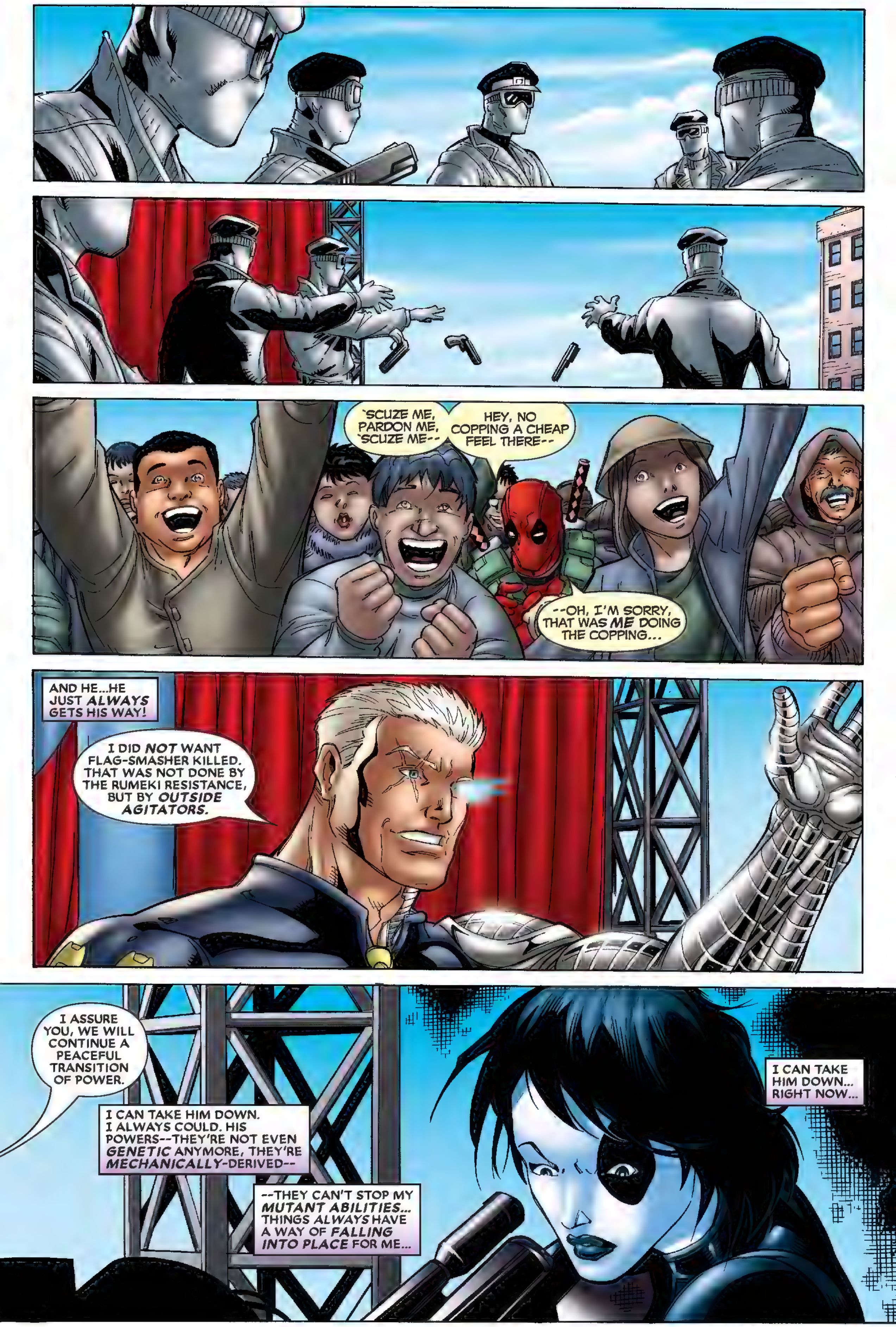
THE DOMINO PRINCIPLE

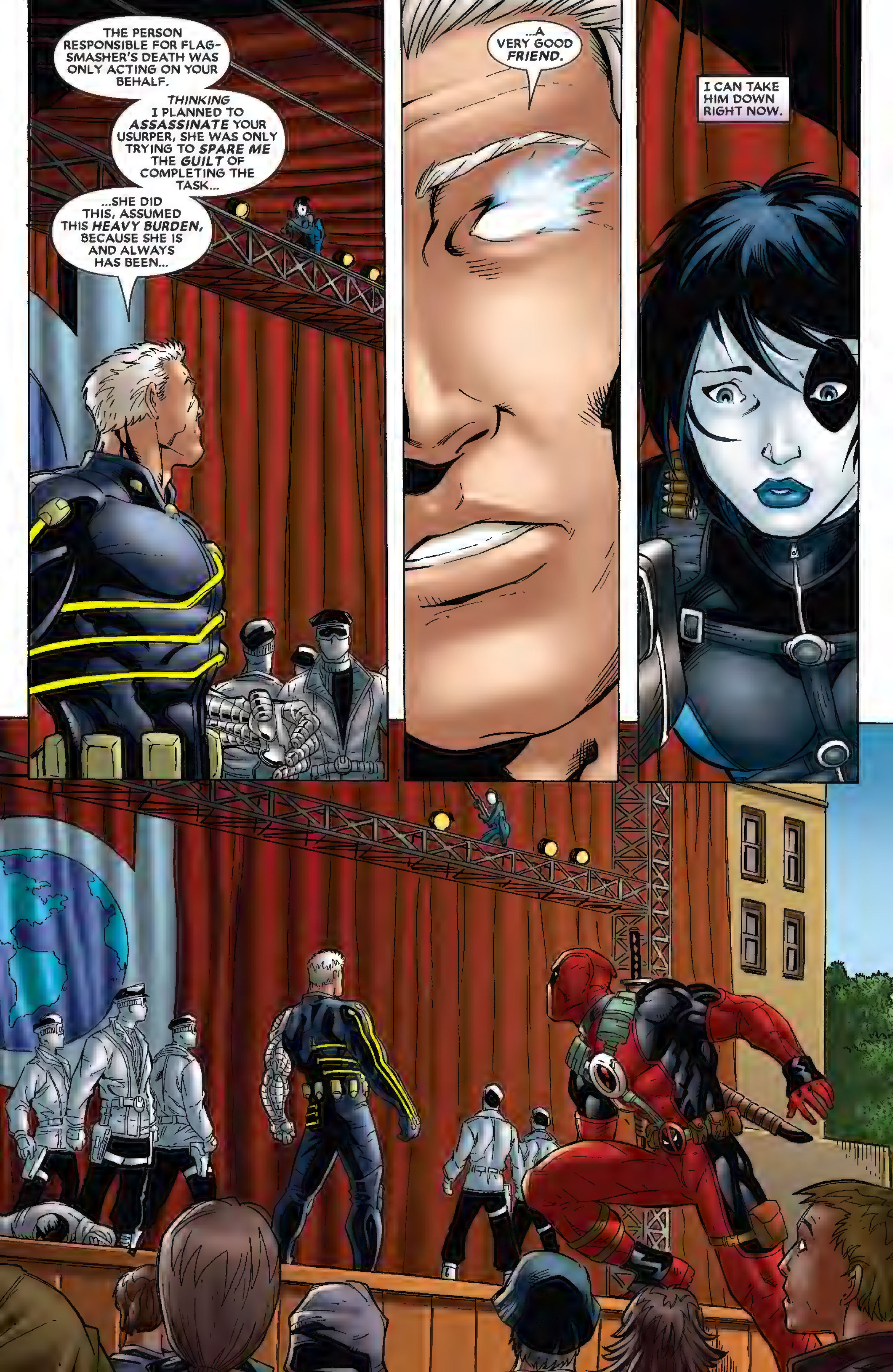
PART II

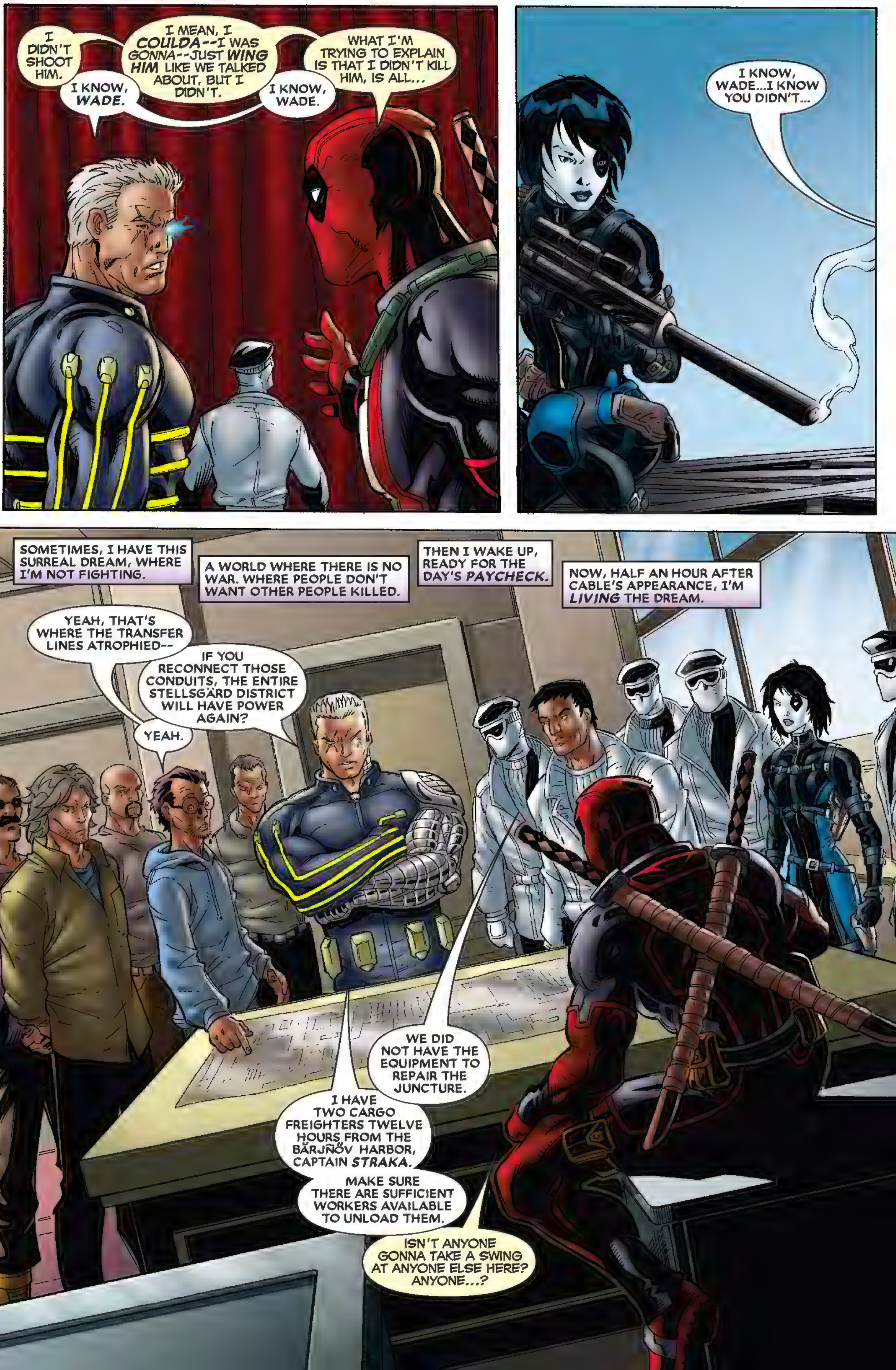
"THE POLITICS OF FEAR"

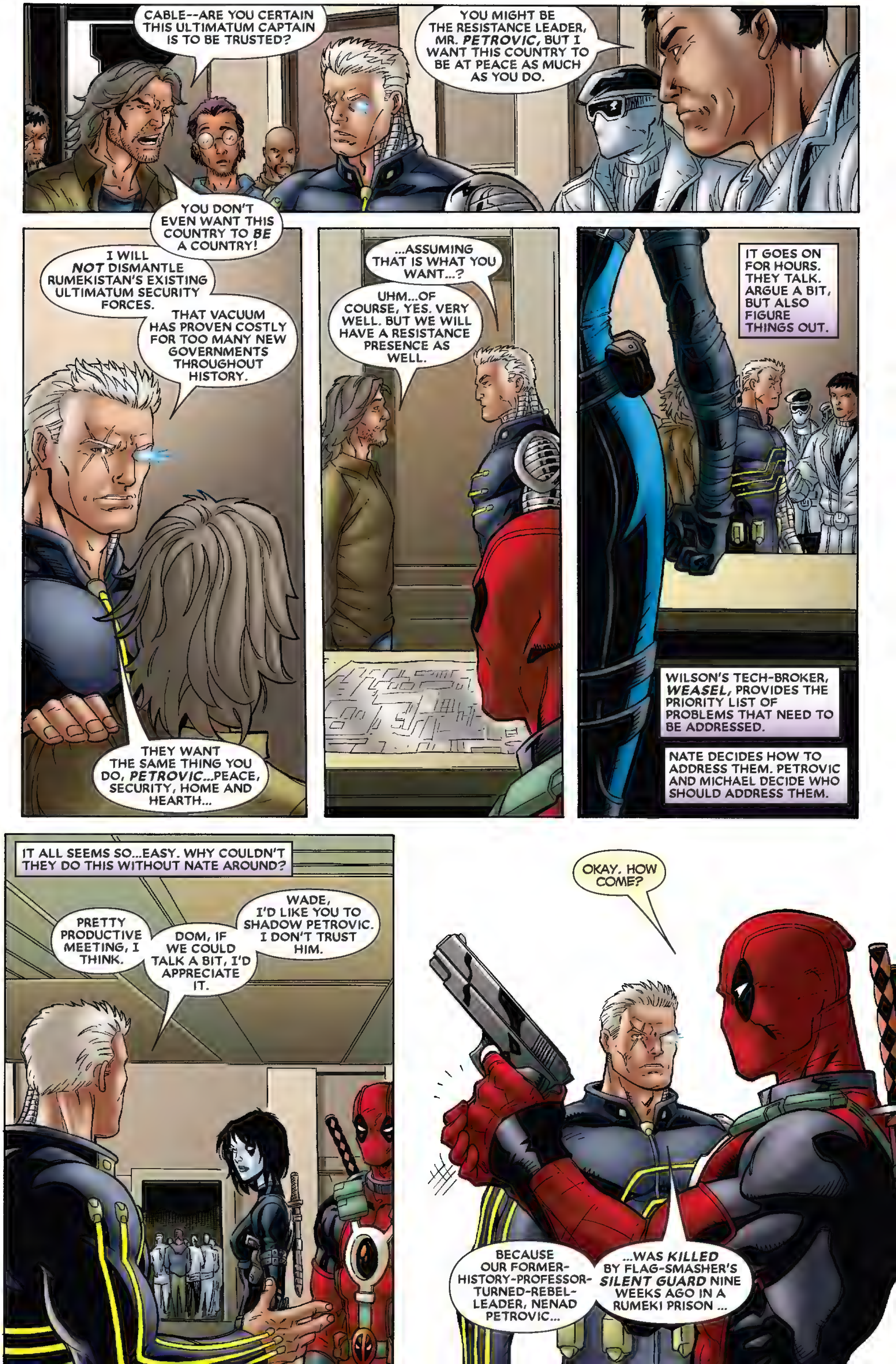

WELCOME TO NIGHTCAP! I'M WADE WILSON--THE LOVABLE MERC WITH A MOUTH KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS DEADPOOL.
THINGS SURE HAVE BEEN HOPPING LATELY, HUH? LAST ISSUE, I WAS HIRED BY THE RUMEKISTAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT--
--TO HELP THEM OVERTHROW THEIR DICTATOR, THE BORDER-HATING TERRORIST, FLAG-SMASHER.
Nightcap with Wade Wilson
THINGS GOT COMPLICATED WHEN THE MERCENARY MUTANT MISTRESS OF MISCHIEF, DOMINO, TRIED TO STOP ME, BUT--
--WE WERE GOOD TO GO, HAD THE SHOT ALL LINED UP, WHEN POW! FLAGGY GOES DOWN!
GUESS WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER? DOMINO. AH-HUH. HOW COME? BEATS ME.
BUT MAYBE OUR GUEST KNOWS WHY (THERE MUST BE A REASON WE BOOKED HIM).
A BIG PALM-SLAP FOR A DUDE WHO'S BEEN SUPER-SPYING FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS--AUSTIN POWERS WITH COJONES OF STEEL--GIVE IT UP FOR CITIZEN V!
FIRST LET ME SAY, YOU'RE HANDLING THIS WHOLE FOURTH-WALL RECAP PAGE THING MUCH BETTER THAN LAST ISSUE'S GUEST.
IT'S A BRITISH THING.
LIKE BAD TEETH?
LIKE APLOMB.
A PLUM?
APLOMB. BALANCE. DECORUM. GRACE UNDER PRESSURE.
IS IT TRUE YOU GRABBED A GUY'S HUEVOS DURING A FIGHT? IS THAT LIKE TWO PLUMS?
SECRETS OF THE TRADE. I'LL NEVER TELL.
WICKED AWESOME. I GOTTA TRY ME SOME OF THAT! SO, ANYWAY, DAWG, HOW COME YOU'RE MY GUEST TONIGHT?
BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN SECRETLY WORKING UNDERCOVER BENEATH YOUR NOSE THIS ENTIRE TIME.
NO! REALLY? GET OUT! BUT NOW I KNOW!
AND YET, TURN THE PAGE AND YOU WON'T. IT'S A FOURTH-WALL THING...
D'OH!

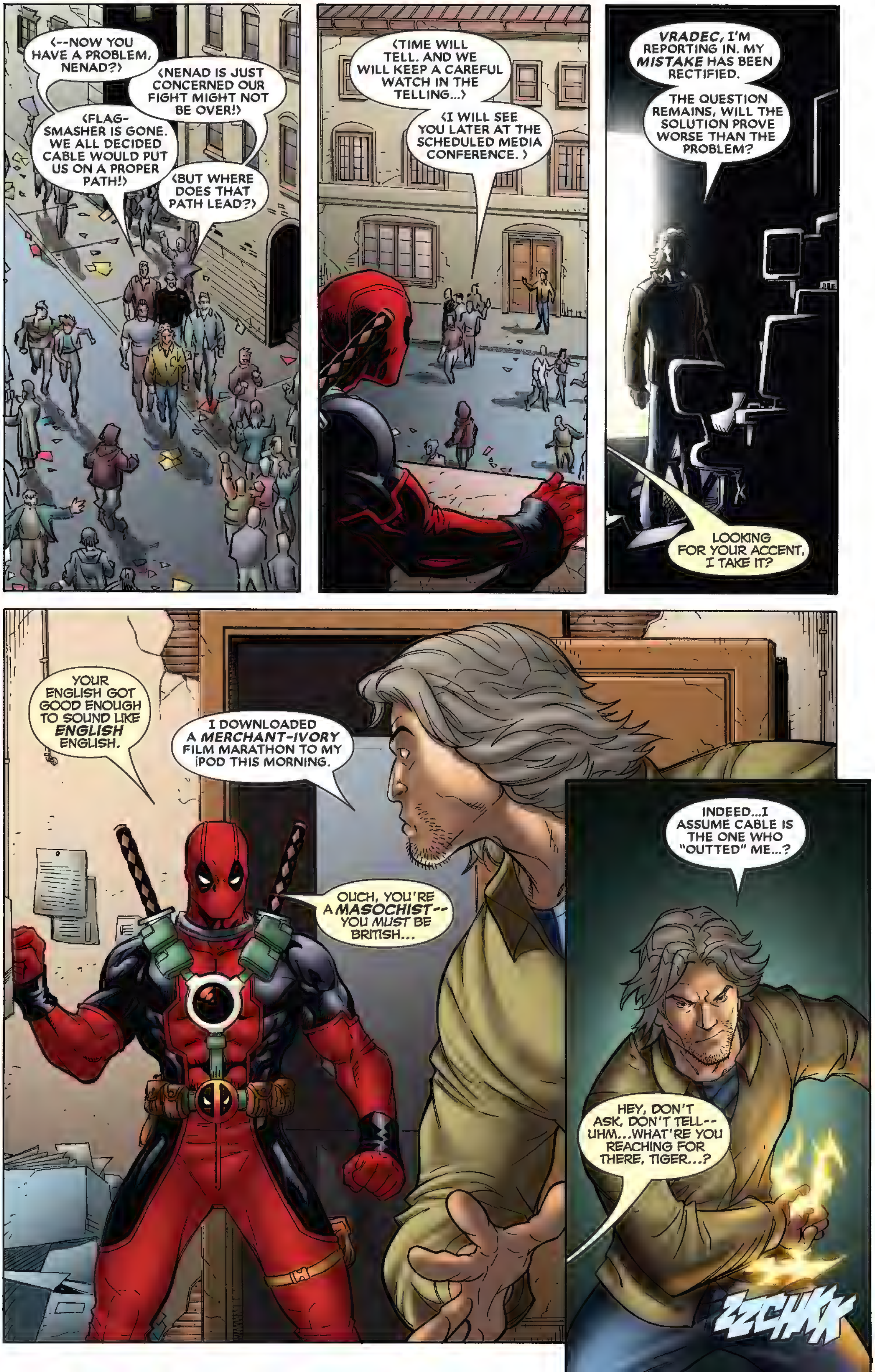

BÄRJÑÖV--CAPITAL OF RUMEKISTAN.
MISSION LOG: DAY TWO, RUNNING: FLAG-SMASHER IS DEAD. BECAUSE I SHOT HIM. RUMEKISTAN IS LIBERATED. BUT WHAT IF I JUST MADE THINGS WORSE?
NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON. CABLE--SOLDIER FROM THE FUTURE--AND THE PAST--NOW SELF-PROCLAIMED SAVIOR OF THE PRESENT--
--HAS JUST BEEN NAMED THE NEW PRESIDENT OF RUMEKISTAN.
IF THE PEOPLE KNEW HIM AS WELL AS I DO...WOULD THEY BE CHEERING?
OR WOULD THEY BE DOING WHAT--
EVERY.
CELL.
IN.
MY.
BODY.
--IS TELLING ME TO DO RIGHT NOW...
...WOULD THEY BE LINING UP A SHOT TO TAKE HIM OUT, TOO...?
ULTIMATUM--LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED!
THE TIME FOR BLOODSHED IS OVER. WE WELCOME YOU TO STAY, HELP REBUILD THIS COUNTRY--
--YOU WANT A WORLD WITHOUT THE DIVIDE BROUGHT ON BY NATIONALITIES, LANGUAGES AND BORDERS?
WELL, THEN YOU SHOULD ALL BE VERY HAPPY I'VE TAKEN OVER...BECAUSE THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I WILL DELIVER!

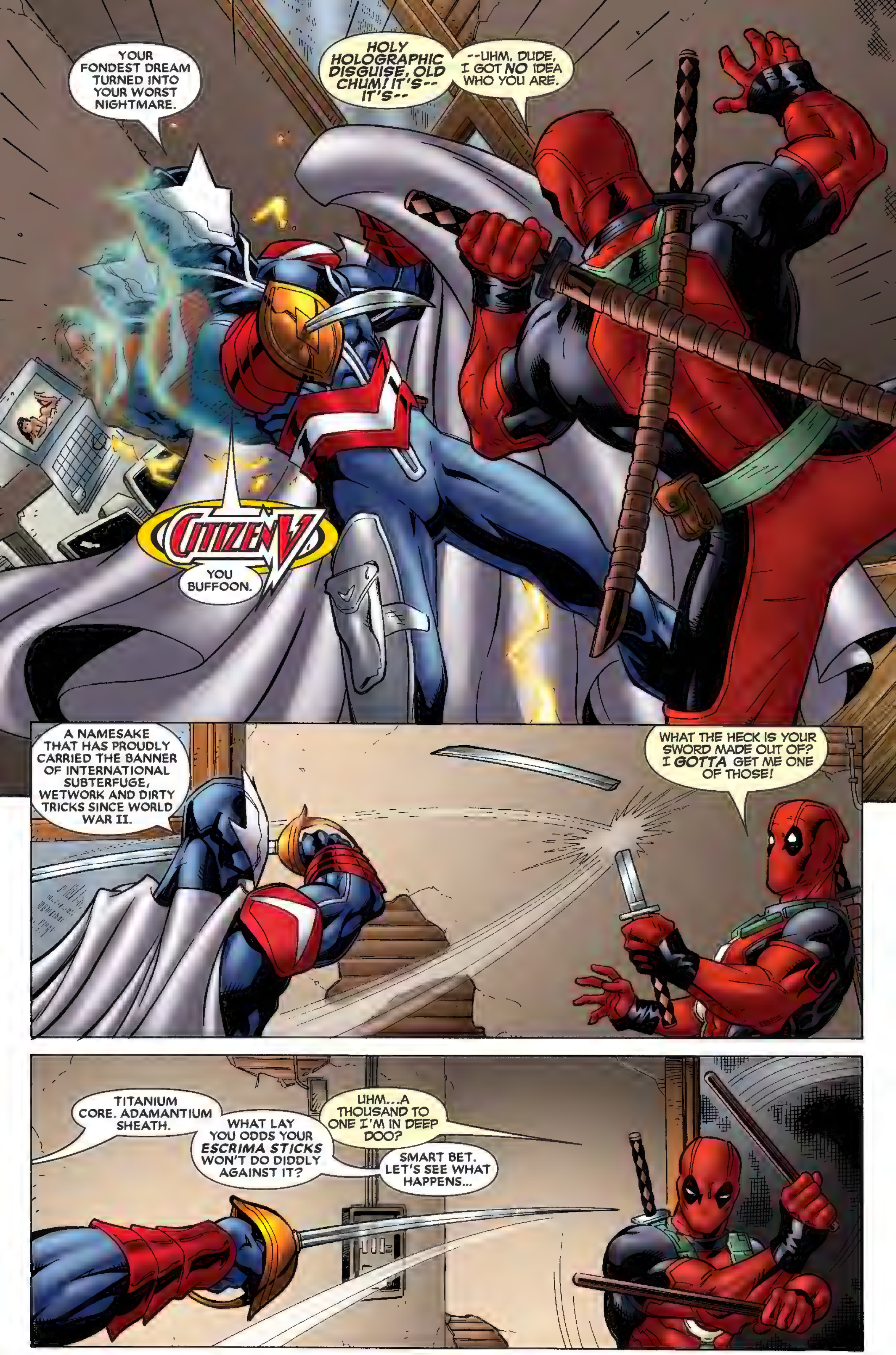

`SCUZE ME, PARDON ME, `SCUZE ME--
HEY, NO COPPING A CHEAP FEEL THERE--
--OH, I'M SORRY, THAT WAS *ME* DOING THE COPPING...
AND HE...HE JUST *ALWAYS* GETS HIS WAY!
I DID *NOT* WANT FLAG-SMASHER KILLED. THAT WAS NOT DONE BY THE RUMEKI RESISTANCE, BUT BY *OUTSIDE AGITATORS.*
I ASSURE YOU, WE WILL CONTINUE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER.
I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN. I ALWAYS COULD. HIS POWERS--THEY'RE NOT EVEN *GENETIC* ANYMORE, THEY'RE *MECHANICALLY*-DERIVED--
--THEY CAN'T STOP MY *MUTANT ABILITIES*... THINGS *ALWAYS* HAVE A WAY OF *FALLING INTO PLACE* FOR ME...
I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN... RIGHT NOW...

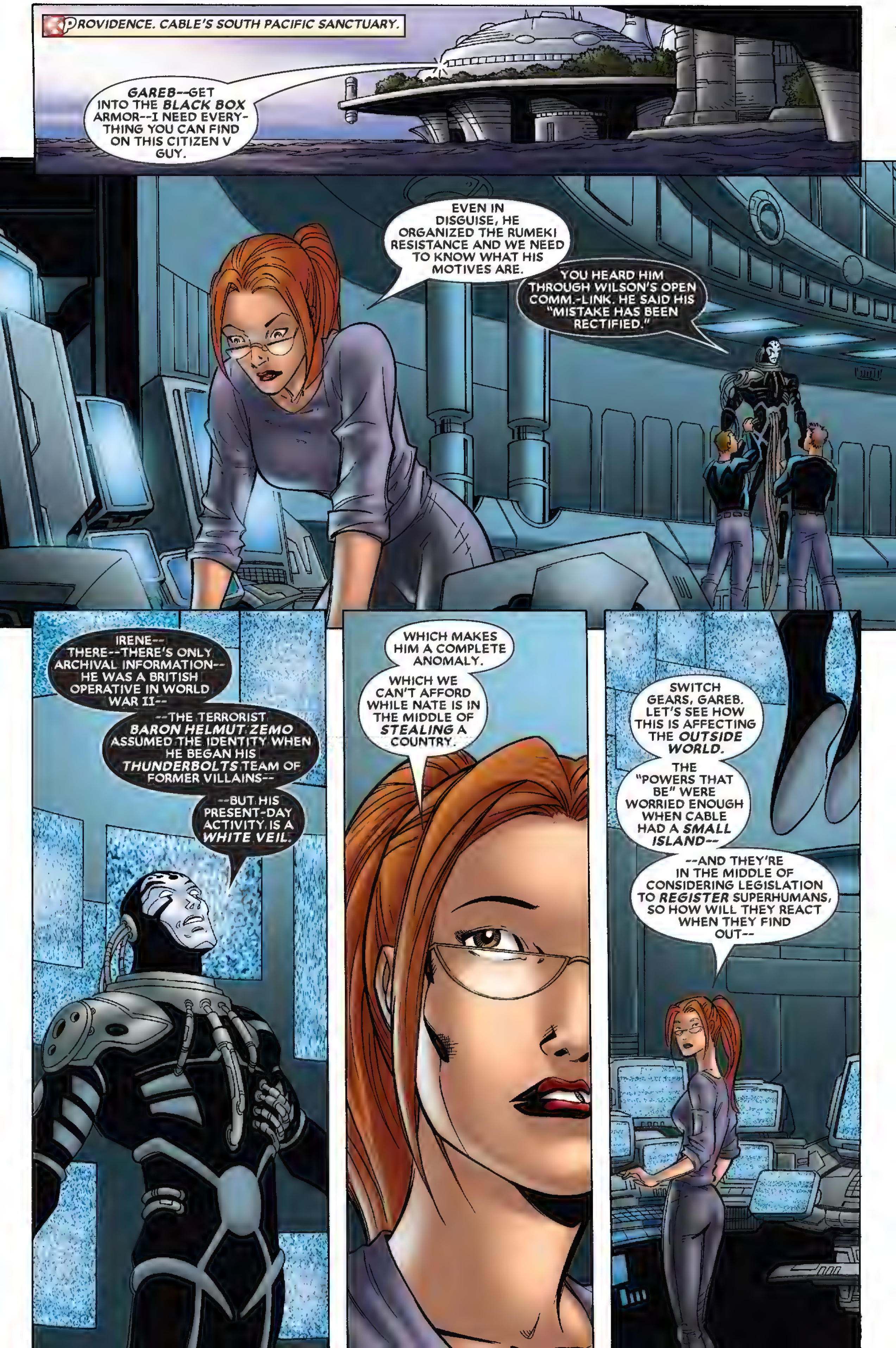

THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR FLAG-SMASHER'S DEATH WAS ONLY ACTING ON YOUR BEHALF.
THINKING I PLANNED TO ***ASSASSINATE*** YOUR USURPER, SHE WAS ONLY TRYING TO ***SPARE ME*** THE ***GUILT*** OF COMPLETING THE TASK...
...SHE DID THIS, ASSUMED THIS ***HEAVY BURDEN***, BECAUSE SHE IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN...
...A VERY GOOD ***FRIEND***.
I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN RIGHT NOW.

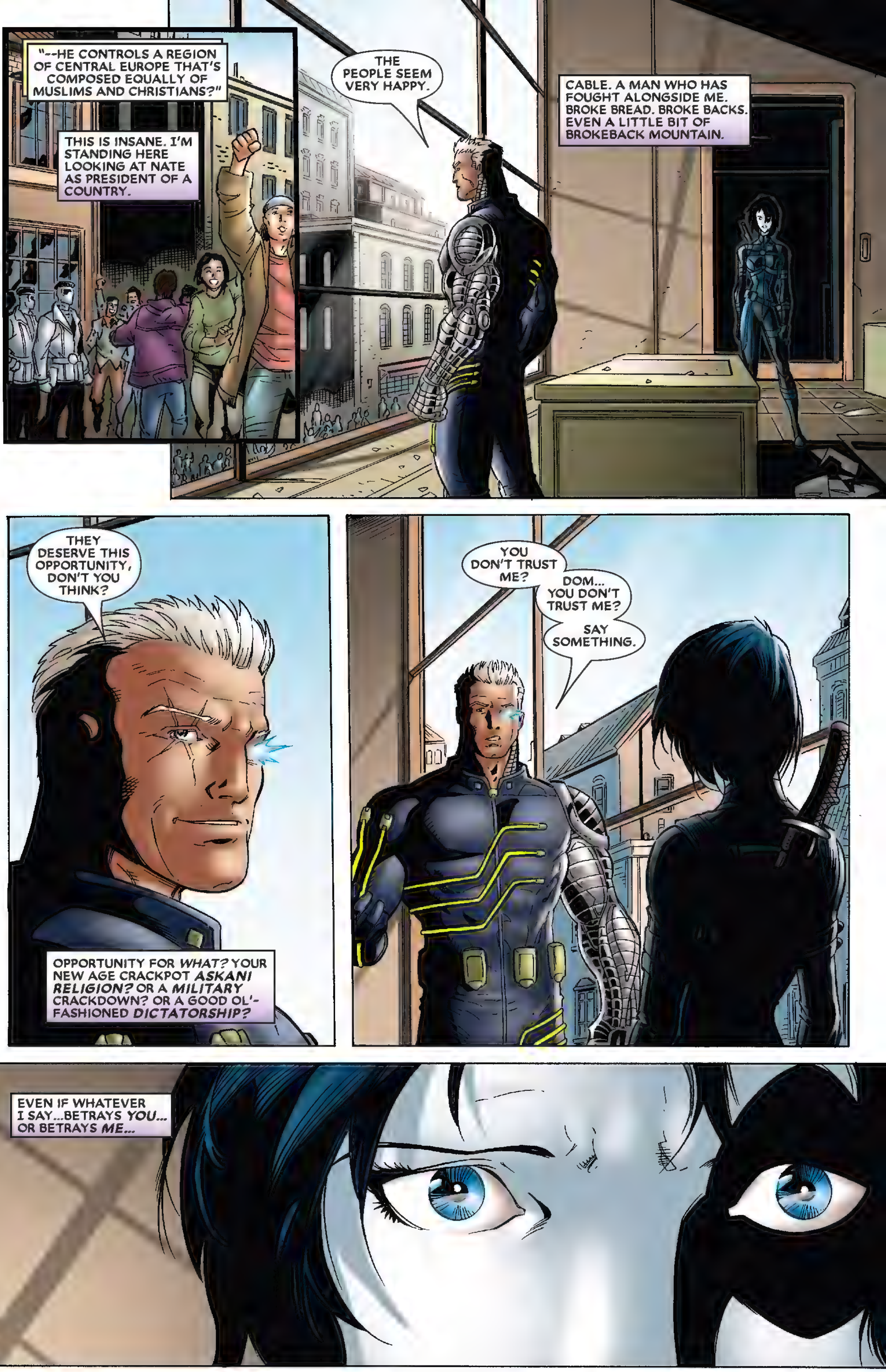

I DIDN'T SHOOT HIM.
I KNOW, WADE.
I MEAN, I COULDA--I WAS GONNA--JUST WING HIM LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT, BUT I DIDN'T.
I KNOW, WADE.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO EXPLAIN IS THAT I DIDN'T KILL HIM, IS ALL...
I KNOW, WADE...I KNOW YOU DIDN'T...
SOMETIMES, I HAVE THIS SURREAL DREAM, WHERE I'M NOT FIGHTING.
A WORLD WHERE THERE IS NO WAR. WHERE PEOPLE DON'T WANT OTHER PEOPLE KILLED.
THEN I WAKE UP, READY FOR THE DAY'S PAYCHECK.
NOW, HALF AN HOUR AFTER CABLE'S APPEARANCE, I'M LIVING THE DREAM.
YEAH, THAT'S WHERE THE TRANSFER LINES ATROPHIED--
IF YOU RECONNECT THOSE CONDUITS, THE ENTIRE STELLSGÄRD DISTRICT WILL HAVE POWER AGAIN?
YEAH.
WE DID NOT HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO REPAIR THE JUNCTURE.
I HAVE TWO CARGO FREIGHTERS TWELVE HOURS FROM THE BĂRJÑŐV HARBOR, CAPTAIN STRAKA.
MAKE SURE THERE ARE SUFFICIENT WORKERS AVAILABLE TO UNLOAD THEM.
ISN'T ANYONE GONNA TAKE A SWING AT ANYONE ELSE HERE? ANYONE...?

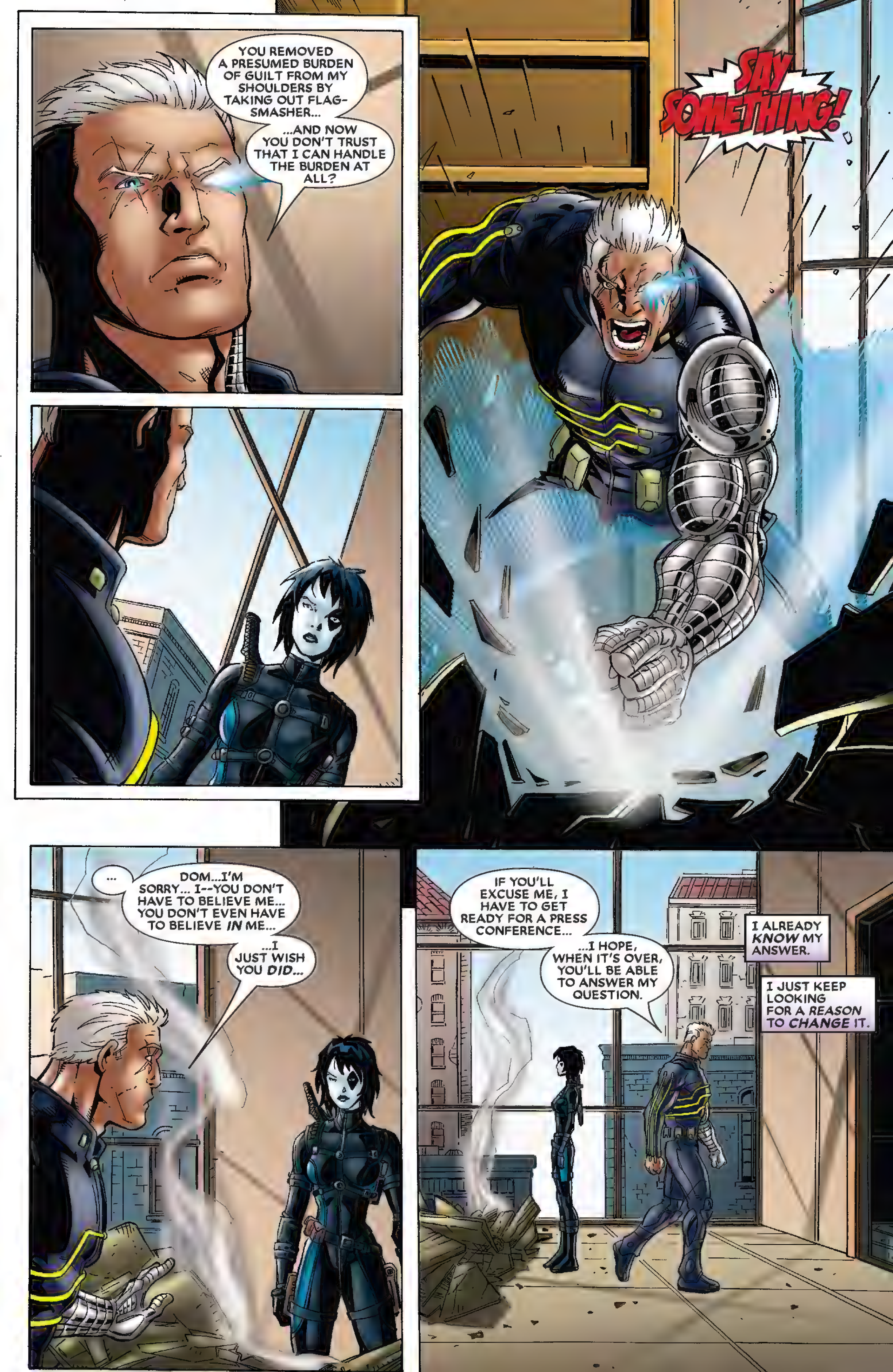

CABLE--ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS ULTIMATUM CAPTAIN IS TO BE TRUSTED?
YOU MIGHT BE THE RESISTANCE LEADER, MR. *PETROVIC,* BUT I WANT THIS COUNTRY TO BE AT PEACE AS MUCH AS YOU DO.
YOU DON'T EVEN WANT THIS COUNTRY TO *BE* A COUNTRY!
I WILL *NOT* DISMANTLE RUMEKISTAN'S EXISTING ULTIMATUM SECURITY FORCES.
THAT VACUUM HAS PROVEN COSTLY FOR TOO MANY NEW GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY.
THEY WANT THE SAME THING YOU DO, *PETROVIC*...PEACE, SECURITY, HOME AND HEARTH...
...ASSUMING THAT IS WHAT YOU WANT...?
UHM...OF COURSE, YES. VERY WELL. BUT WE WILL HAVE A RESISTANCE PRESENCE AS WELL.
IT GOES ON FOR HOURS. THEY TALK. ARGUE A BIT, BUT ALSO FIGURE THINGS OUT.
WILSON'S TECH-BROKER, *WEASEL,* PROVIDES THE PRIORITY LIST OF PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.
NATE DECIDES HOW TO ADDRESS THEM. PETROVIC AND MICHAEL DECIDE WHO SHOULD ADDRESS THEM.
IT ALL SEEMS SO...EASY. WHY COULDN'T THEY DO THIS WITHOUT NATE AROUND?
PRETTY PRODUCTIVE MEETING, I THINK.
DOM, IF WE COULD TALK A BIT, I'D APPRECIATE IT.
WADE, I'D LIKE YOU TO SHADOW PETROVIC. I DON'T TRUST HIM.
OKAY. HOW COME?
BECAUSE OUR FORMER-HISTORY-PROFESSOR-TURNED-REBEL-LEADER, NENAD PETROVIC...
...WAS *KILLED* BY FLAG-SMASHER'S *SILENT GUARD* NINE WEEKS AGO IN A RUMEKI PRISON ...

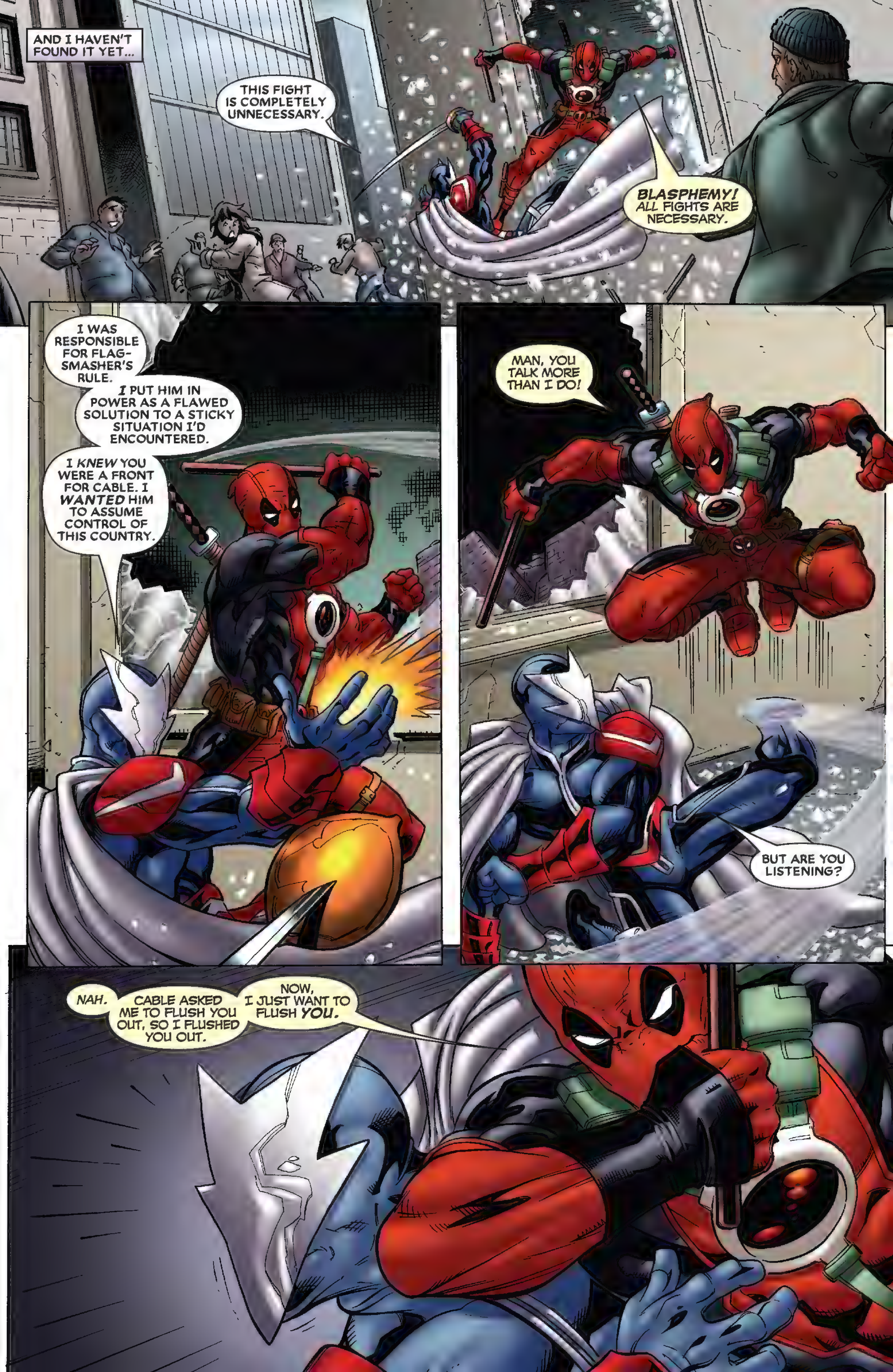

‹--NOW YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, NENAD?›
‹NENAD IS JUST CONCERNED OUR FIGHT MIGHT NOT BE OVER!›
‹FLAG-SMASHER IS GONE. WE ALL DECIDED CABLE WOULD PUT US ON A PROPER PATH!›
‹BUT WHERE DOES THAT PATH LEAD?›
‹TIME WILL TELL. AND WE WILL KEEP A CAREFUL WATCH IN THE TELLING...›
‹I WILL SEE YOU LATER AT THE SCHEDULED MEDIA CONFERENCE.›
VRADEC, I'M REPORTING IN. MY *MISTAKE* HAS BEEN RECTIFIED.
THE QUESTION REMAINS, WILL THE SOLUTION PROVE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM?
LOOKING FOR YOUR ACCENT, I TAKE IT?
YOUR ENGLISH GOT GOOD ENOUGH TO SOUND LIKE *ENGLISH* ENGLISH.
I DOWNLOADED A *MERCHANT-IVORY* FILM MARATHON TO MY iPOD THIS MORNING.
OUCH, YOU'RE A *MASOCHIST*-- *YOU MUST* BE BRITISH...
INDEED...I ASSUME CABLE IS THE ONE WHO "OUTTED" ME...?
HEY, DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL-- UHM...WHAT'RE YOU REACHING FOR THERE, TIGER...?
ZZCHKK

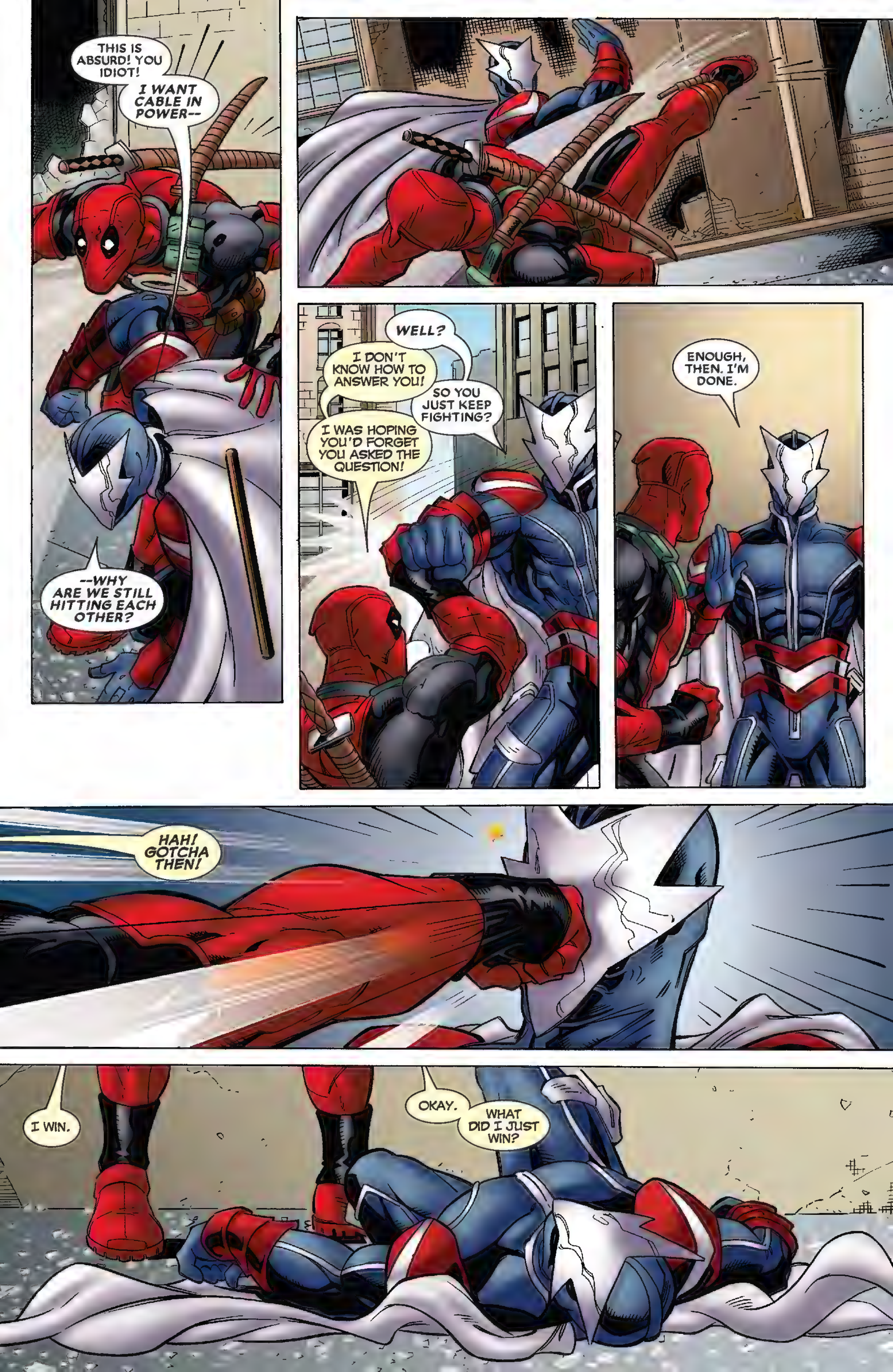

YOUR FONDEST DREAM TURNED INTO YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE.
HOLY HOLOGRAPHIC DISGUISE, OLD CHUM! IT'S-- IT'S--
--UHM, DUDE, I GOT NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE.
CITIZEN V
YOU BUFFOON.
A NAMESAKE THAT HAS PROUDLY CARRIED THE BANNER OF INTERNATIONAL SUBTERFUGE, WETWORK AND DIRTY TRICKS SINCE WORLD WAR II.
WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR SWORD MADE OUT OF? I GOTTA GET ME ONE OF THOSE!
TITANIUM CORE. ADAMANTIUM SHEATH.
WHAT LAY YOU ODDS YOUR ESCRIMA STICKS WON'T DO DIDDLY AGAINST IT?
UHM...A THOUSAND TO ONE I'M IN DEEP DOO?
SMART BET. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS...

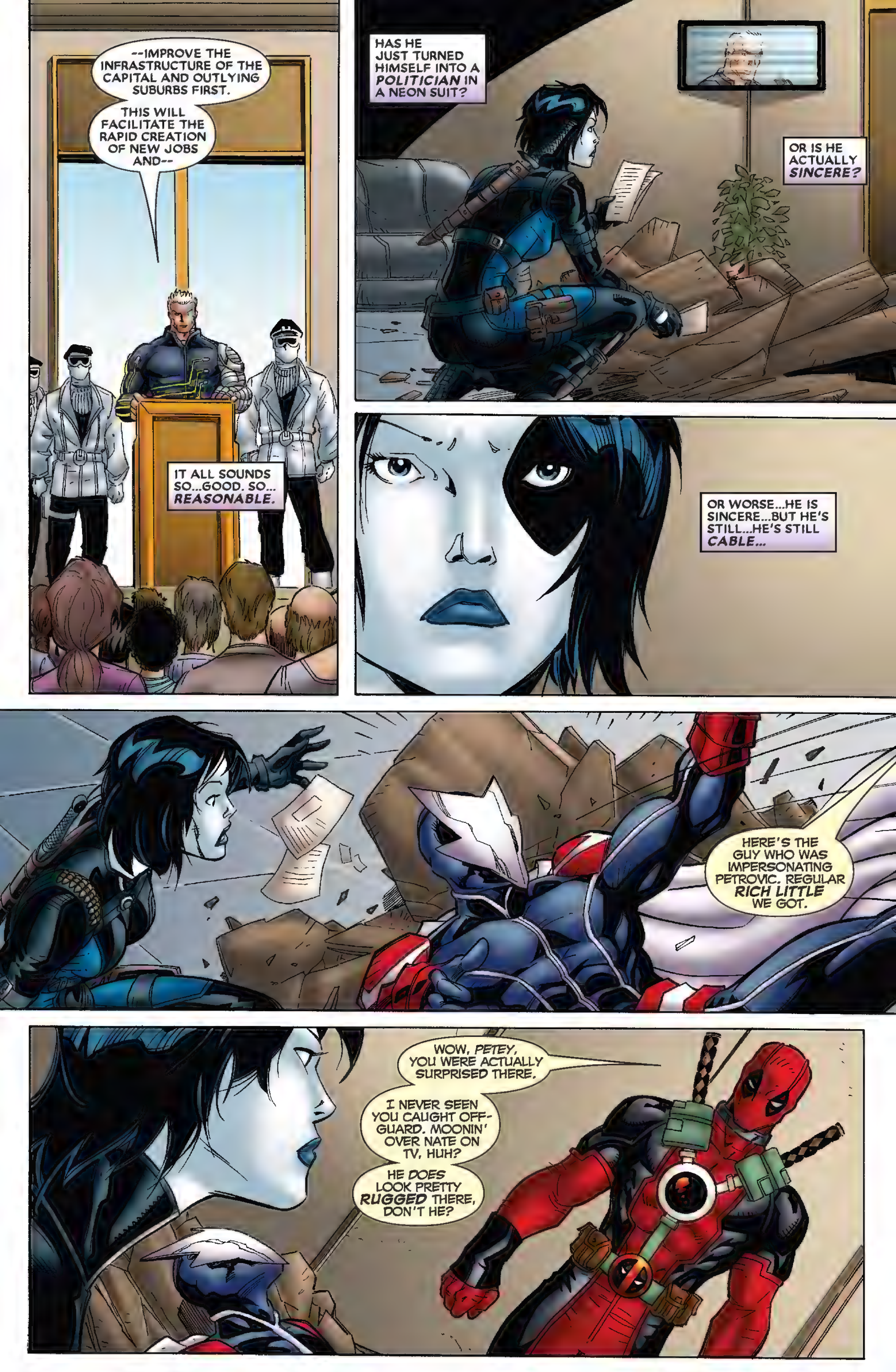

PROVIDENCE. CABLE'S SOUTH PACIFIC SANCTUARY.
GAREB--GET INTO THE BLACK BOX ARMOR--I NEED EVERYTHING YOU CAN FIND ON THIS CITIZEN V GUY.
EVEN IN DISGUISE, HE ORGANIZED THE RUMEKI RESISTANCE AND WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HIS MOTIVES ARE.
YOU HEARD HIM THROUGH WILSON'S OPEN COMM.-LINK. HE SAID HIS "MISTAKE HAS BEEN RECTIFIED."
IRENE--THERE--THERE'S ONLY ARCHIVAL INFORMATION--HE WAS A BRITISH OPERATIVE IN WORLD WAR II--
--THE TERRORIST BARON HELMUT ZEMO ASSUMED THE IDENTITY WHEN HE BEGAN HIS THUNDERBOLTS TEAM OF FORMER VILLAINS--
--BUT HIS PRESENT-DAY ACTIVITY IS A WHITE VEIL.
WHICH MAKES HIM A COMPLETE ANOMALY.
WHICH WE CAN'T AFFORD WHILE NATE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF STEALING A COUNTRY.
SWITCH GEARS, GAREB. LET'S SEE HOW THIS IS AFFECTING THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
THE "POWERS THAT BE" WERE WORRIED ENOUGH WHEN CABLE HAD A SMALL ISLAND--
--AND THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF CONSIDERING LEGISLATION TO REGISTER SUPERHUMANS, SO HOW WILL THEY REACT WHEN THEY FIND OUT--

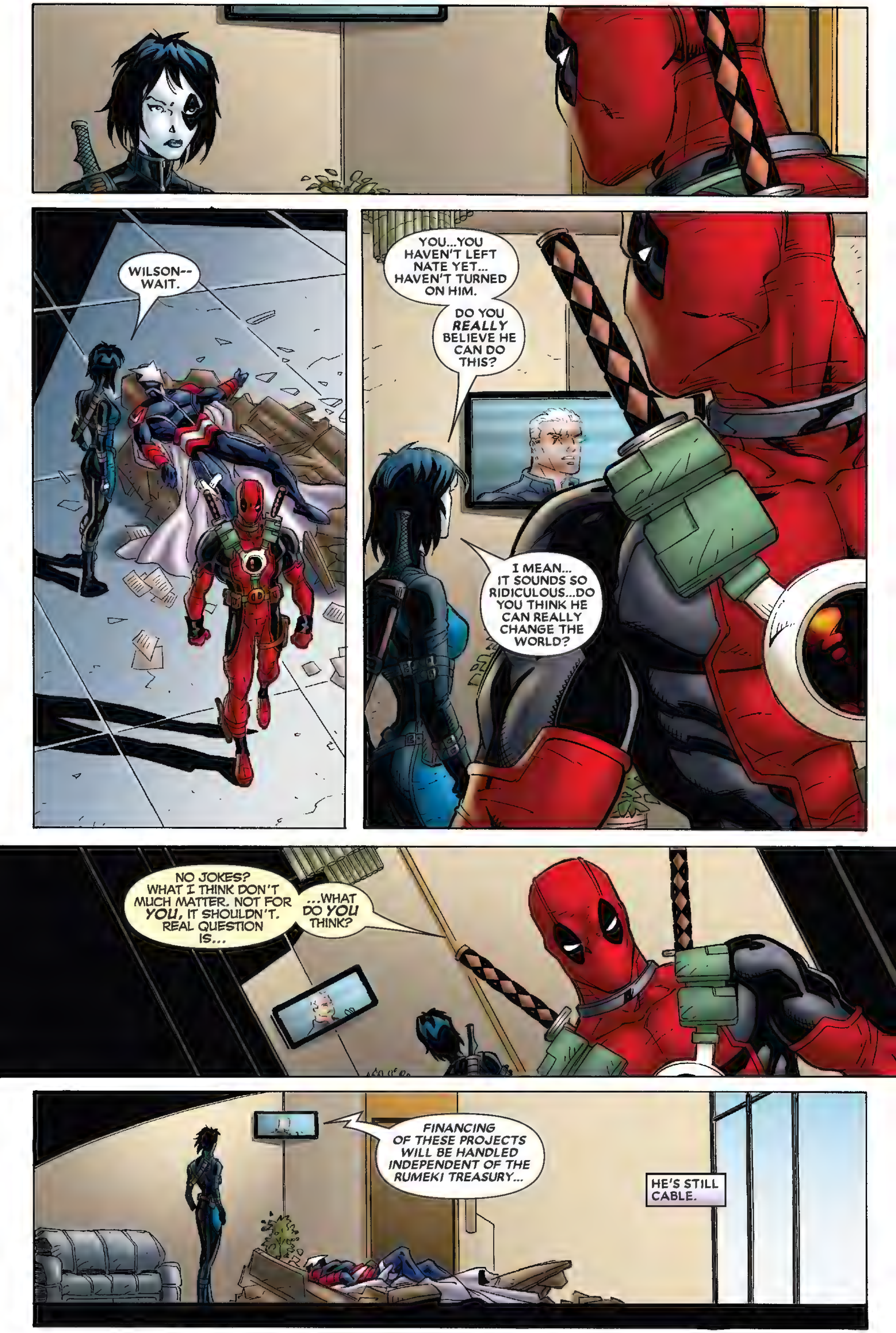

"--HE CONTROLS A REGION OF CENTRAL EUROPE THAT'S COMPOSED EQUALLY OF MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS?"
THIS IS INSANE. I'M STANDING HERE LOOKING AT NATE AS PRESIDENT OF A COUNTRY.
THE PEOPLE SEEM VERY HAPPY.
CABLE. A MAN WHO HAS FOUGHT ALONGSIDE ME. BROKE BREAD. BROKE BACKS. EVEN A LITTLE BIT OF BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN.
THEY DESERVE THIS OPPORTUNITY, DON'T YOU THINK?
OPPORTUNITY FOR *WHAT?* YOUR NEW AGE CRACKPOT ***ASKANI RELIGION?*** OR A ***MILITARY*** CRACKDOWN? OR A GOOD OL'-FASHIONED ***DICTATORSHIP?***
YOU DON'T TRUST ME?
DOM... YOU DON'T TRUST ME?
SAY SOMETHING.
EVEN IF WHATEVER I SAY...BETRAYS ***YOU...*** OR BETRAYS ***ME...***

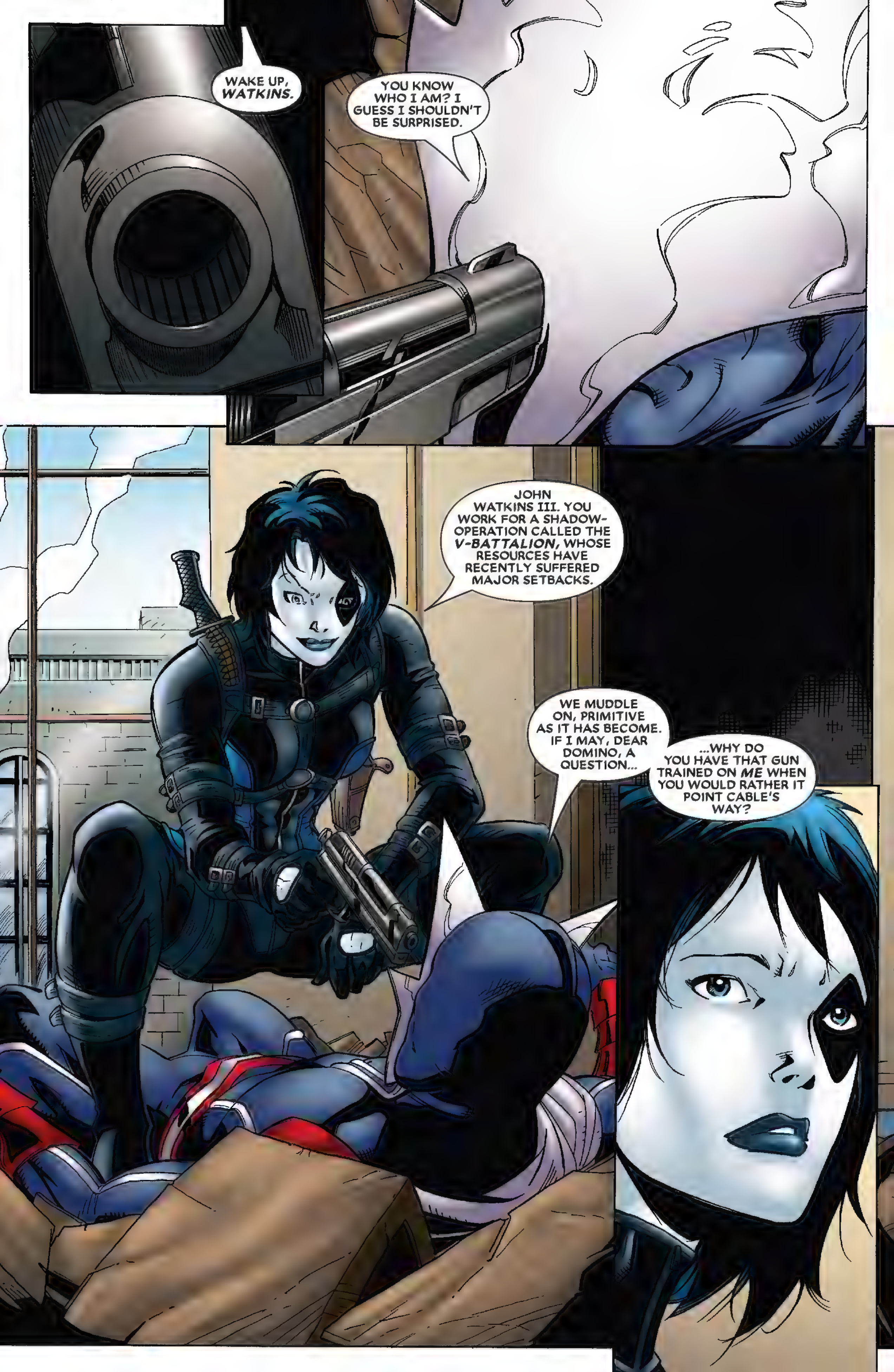

YOU REMOVED A PRESUMED BURDEN OF GUILT FROM MY SHOULDERS BY TAKING OUT FLAG-SMASHER...
...AND NOW YOU DON'T TRUST THAT I CAN HANDLE THE BURDEN AT ALL?
SAY SOMETHING!
...
DOM...I'M SORRY... I--YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME... YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BELIEVE *IN* ME...
...I JUST WISH YOU *DID*...
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GET READY FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE...
...I HOPE, WHEN IT'S OVER, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ANSWER MY QUESTION.
I ALREADY *KNOW* MY ANSWER.
I JUST KEEP LOOKING FOR A *REASON* TO *CHANGE* IT.

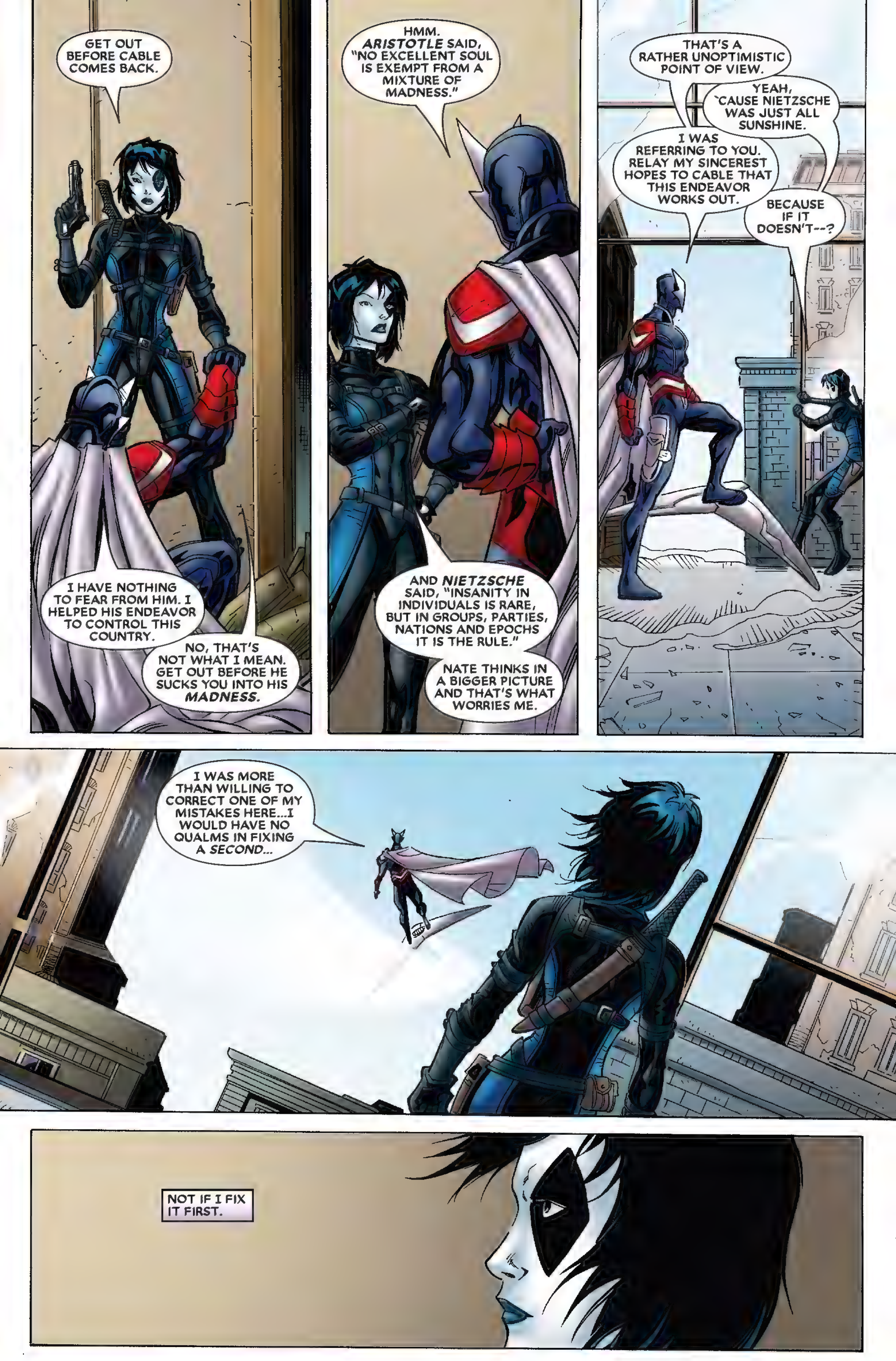

AND I HAVEN'T FOUND IT YET...
THIS FIGHT IS COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY.
BLASPHEMY! ALL FIGHTS ARE NECESSARY.
I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FLAG-SMASHER'S RULE.
I PUT HIM IN POWER AS A FLAWED SOLUTION TO A STICKY SITUATION I'D ENCOUNTERED.
I *KNEW* YOU WERE A FRONT FOR CABLE. I *WANTED* HIM TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THIS COUNTRY.
MAN, YOU TALK MORE THAN I DO!
BUT ARE YOU LISTENING?
NAH.
CABLE ASKED ME TO FLUSH YOU OUT, SO I FLUSHED YOU OUT.
NOW, I JUST WANT TO FLUSH *YOU.*

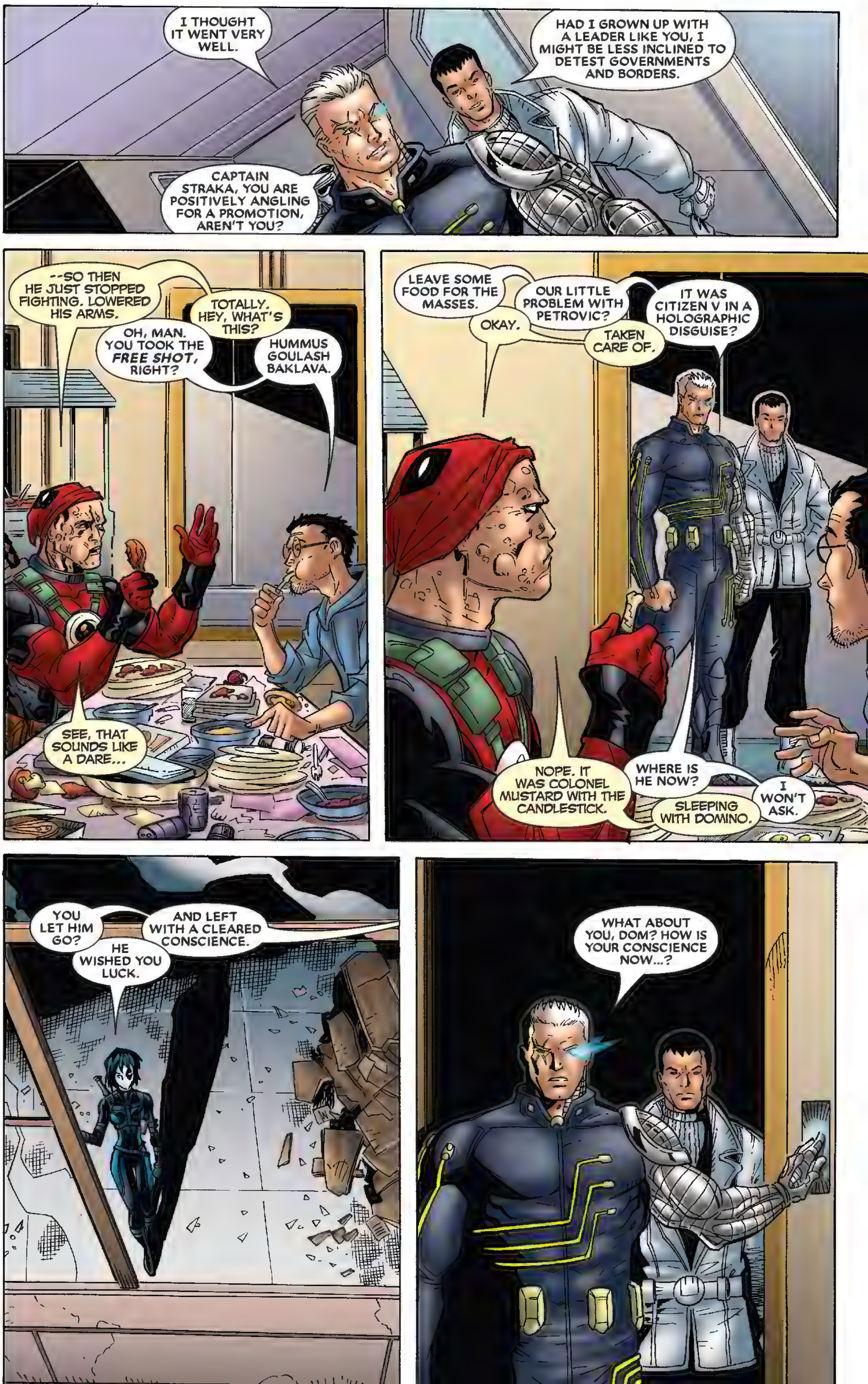

THIS IS ABSURD! YOU IDIOT!
I WANT CABLE IN POWER--
--WHY ARE WE STILL HITTING EACH OTHER?
WELL?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER YOU!
SO YOU JUST KEEP FIGHTING?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D FORGET YOU ASKED THE QUESTION!
ENOUGH, THEN. I'M DONE.
HAH! GOTCHA THEN!
I WIN.
OKAY.
WHAT DID I JUST WIN?

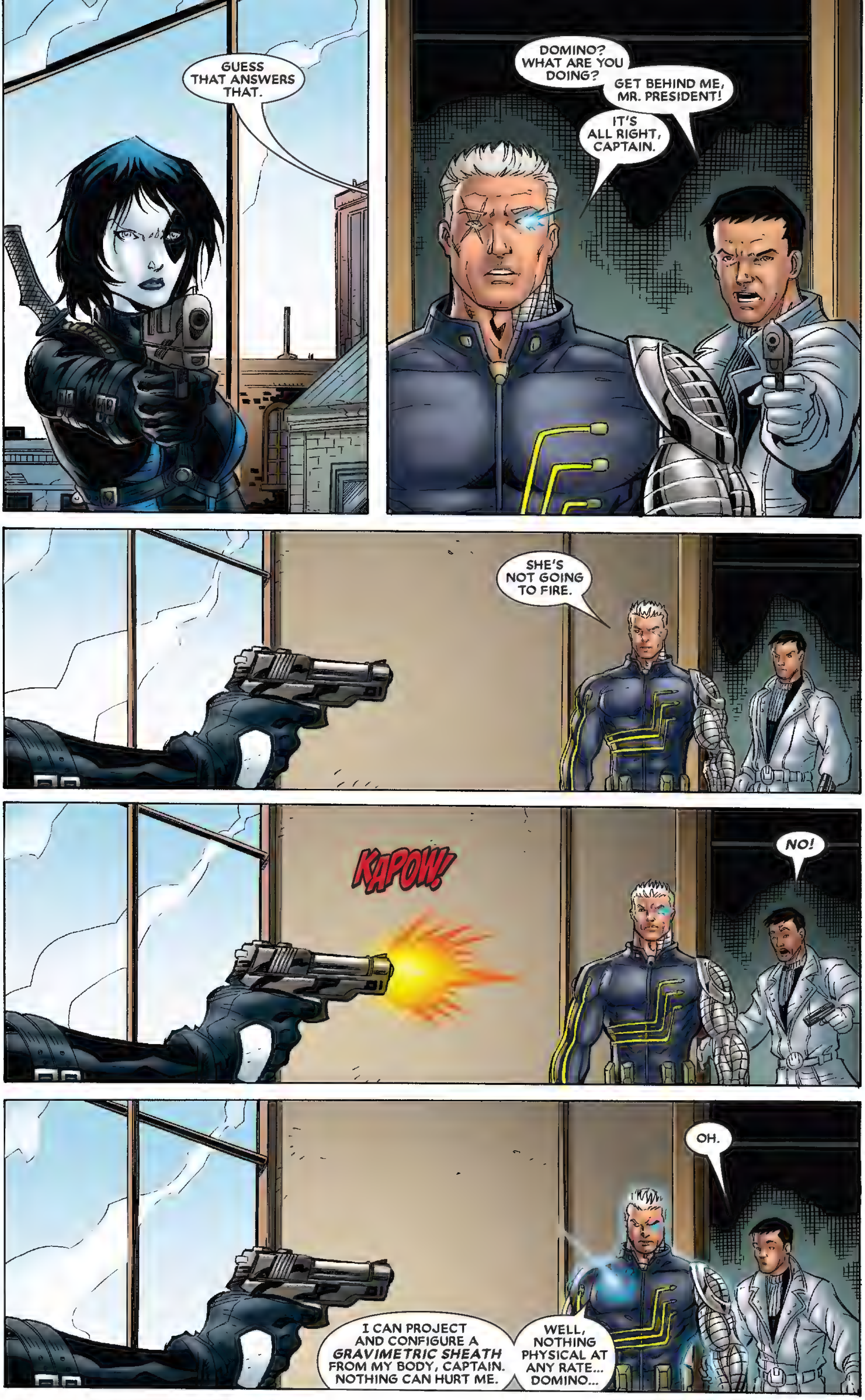

--IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CAPITAL AND OUTLYING SUBURBS FIRST.
THIS WILL FACILITATE THE RAPID CREATION OF NEW JOBS AND--
IT ALL SOUNDS SO...GOOD. SO... **REASONABLE.**
HAS HE JUST TURNED HIMSELF INTO A ***POLITICIAN*** IN A NEON SUIT?
OR IS HE ACTUALLY ***SINCERE?***
OR WORSE...HE IS SINCERE...BUT HE'S STILL...HE'S STILL ***CABLE...***
HERE'S THE GUY WHO WAS IMPERSONATING PETROVIC. REGULAR ***RICH LITTLE*** WE GOT.
WOW, *PETEY,* YOU WERE ACTUALLY SURPRISED THERE.
I NEVER SEEN YOU CAUGHT OFF-GUARD. MOONIN' OVER NATE ON TV, HUH?
HE *DOES* LOOK PRETTY ***RUGGED*** THERE, DON'T HE?

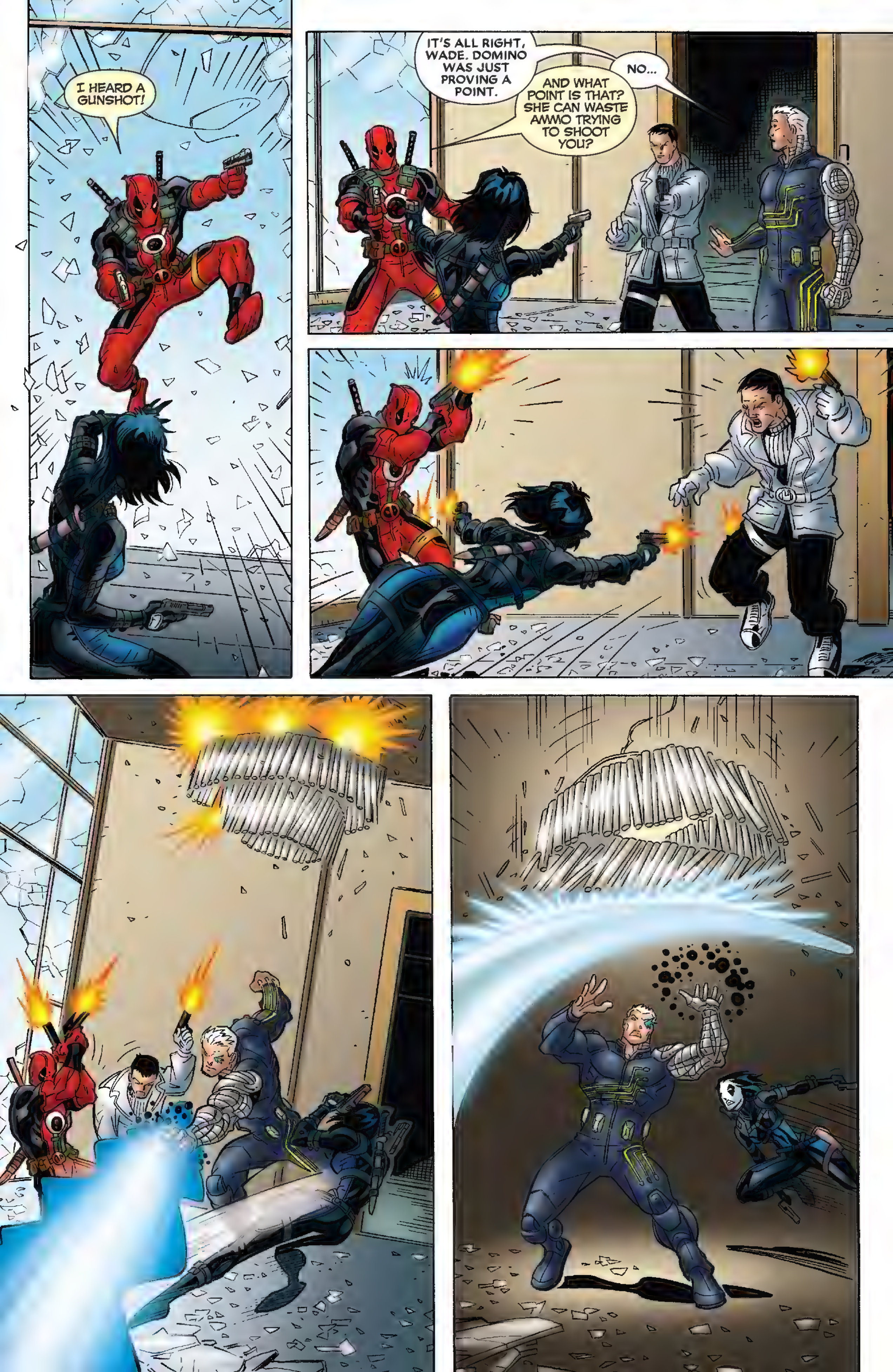

WILSON-- WAIT.
YOU...YOU HAVEN'T LEFT NATE YET... HAVEN'T TURNED ON HIM.
DO YOU *REALLY* BELIEVE HE CAN DO THIS?
I MEAN... IT SOUNDS SO RIDICULOUS...DO YOU THINK HE CAN REALLY CHANGE THE WORLD?
NO JOKES? WHAT I THINK DON'T MUCH MATTER. NOT FOR *YOU*, IT SHOULDN'T. REAL QUESTION IS...
...WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?
FINANCING OF THESE PROJECTS WILL BE HANDLED INDEPENDENT OF THE RUMEKI TREASURY...
HE'S STILL CABLE.

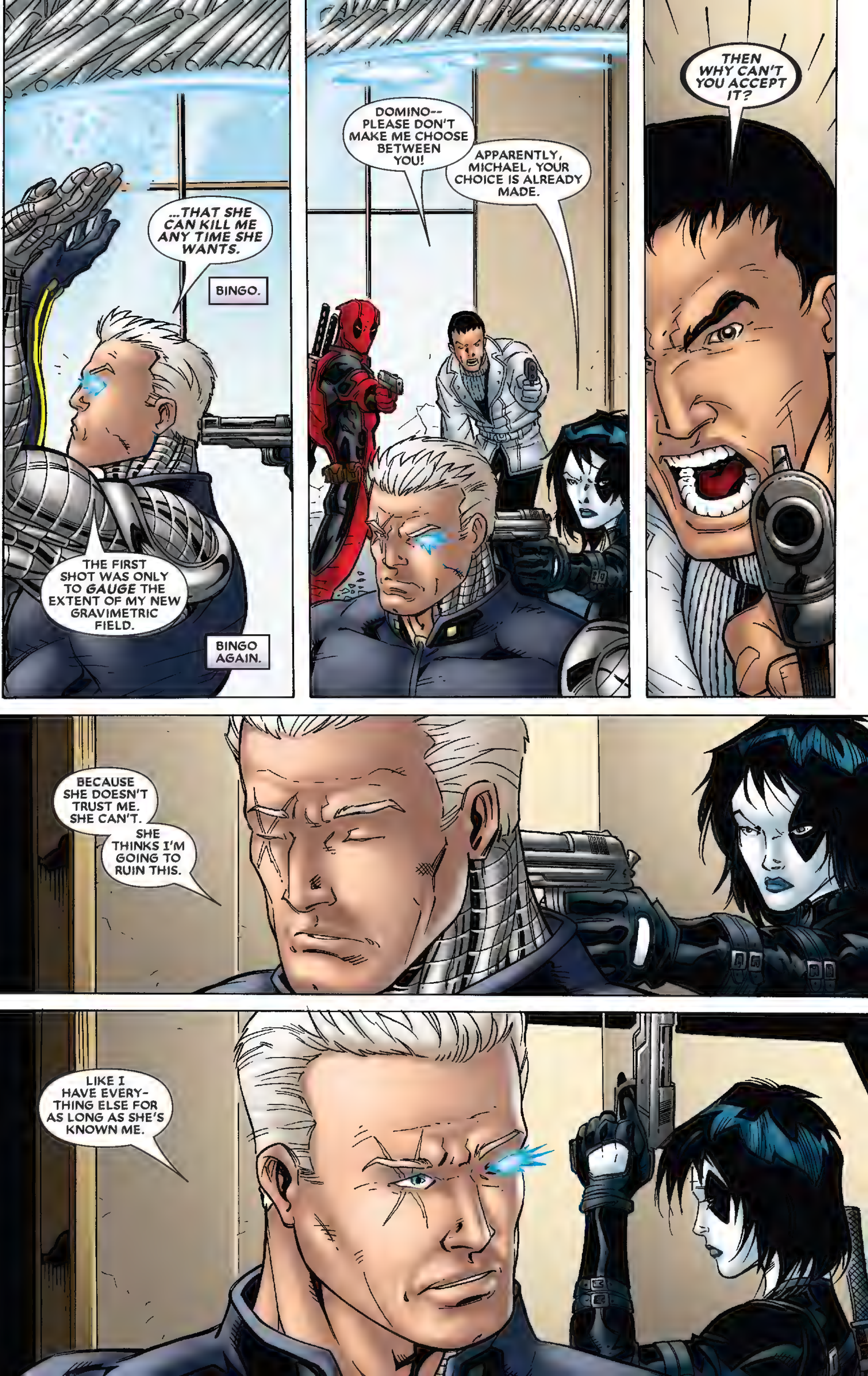

WAKE UP, *WATKINS.*
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
JOHN WATKINS III. YOU WORK FOR A SHADOW-OPERATION CALLED THE *V-BATTALION,* WHOSE RESOURCES HAVE RECENTLY SUFFERED MAJOR SETBACKS.
WE MUDDLE ON, PRIMITIVE AS IT HAS BECOME. IF I MAY, DEAR DOMINO, A QUESTION...
...WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT GUN TRAINED ON *ME* WHEN YOU WOULD RATHER IT POINT CABLE'S WAY?

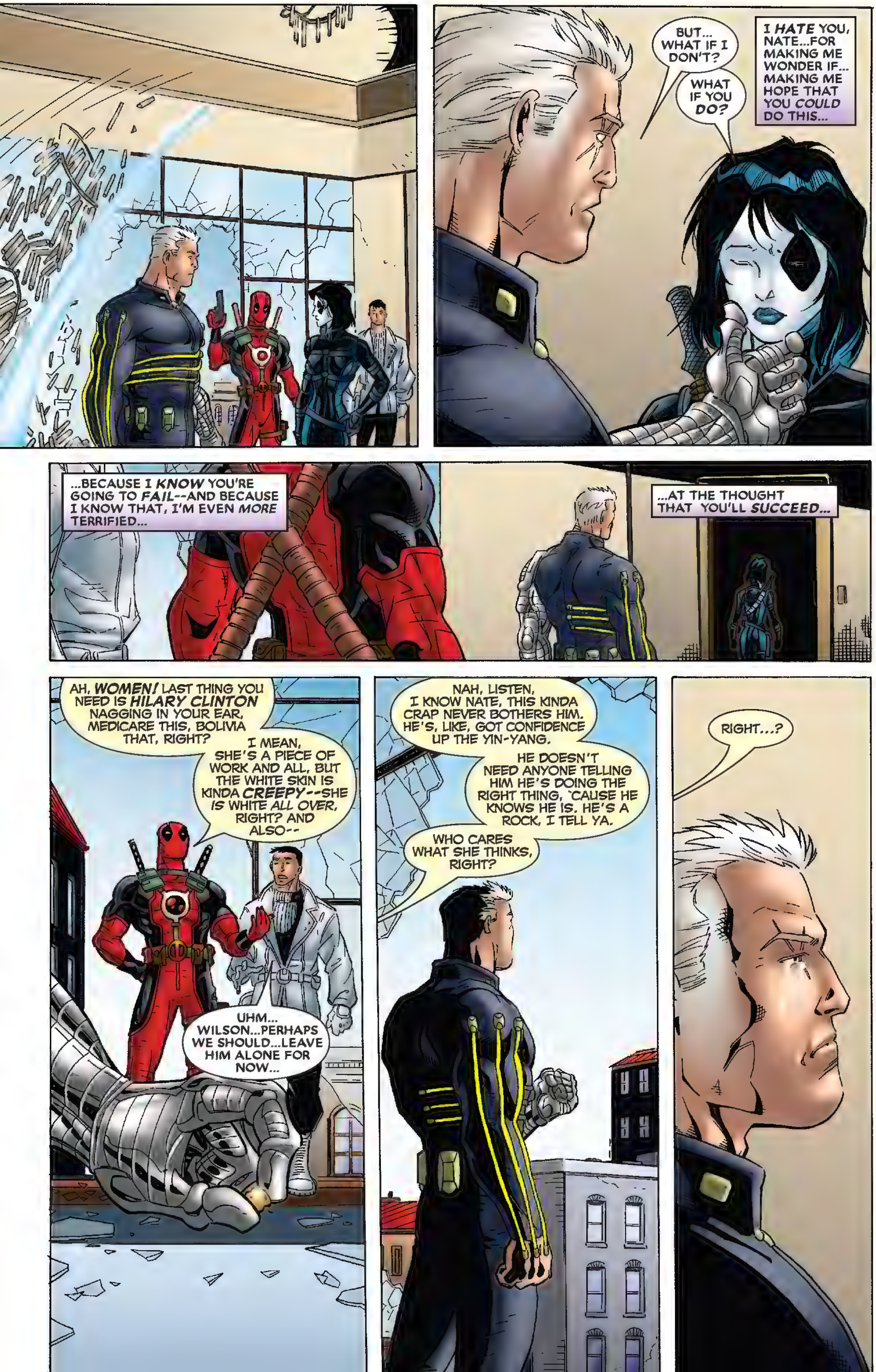

GET OUT BEFORE CABLE COMES BACK.
I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HIM. I HELPED HIS ENDEAVOR TO CONTROL THIS COUNTRY.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. GET OUT BEFORE HE SUCKS YOU INTO HIS *MADNESS.*
HMM. ***ARISTOTLE*** SAID, "NO EXCELLENT SOUL IS EXEMPT FROM A MIXTURE OF MADNESS."
AND ***NIETZSCHE*** SAID, "INSANITY IN INDIVIDUALS IS RARE, BUT IN GROUPS, PARTIES, NATIONS AND EPOCHS IT IS THE RULE."
NATE THINKS IN A BIGGER PICTURE AND THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME.
THAT'S A RATHER UNOPTIMISTIC POINT OF VIEW.
YEAH, 'CAUSE NIETZSCHE WAS JUST ALL SUNSHINE.
I WAS REFERRING TO YOU. RELAY MY SINCEREST HOPES TO CABLE THAT THIS ENDEAVOR WORKS OUT.
BECAUSE IF IT DOESN'T--?
I WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO CORRECT ONE OF MY MISTAKES HERE...I WOULD HAVE NO QUALMS IN FIXING A *SECOND...*
NOT IF I FIX IT FIRST.


I THOUGHT IT WENT VERY WELL.
HAD I GROWN UP WITH A LEADER LIKE YOU, I MIGHT BE LESS INCLINED TO DETEST GOVERNMENTS AND BORDERS.
CAPTAIN STRAKA, YOU ARE POSITIVELY ANGLING FOR A PROMOTION, AREN'T YOU?
--SO THEN HE JUST STOPPED FIGHTING. LOWERED HIS ARMS.
OH, MAN. YOU TOOK THE *FREE SHOT*, RIGHT?
TOTALLY. HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
HUMMUS GOULASH BAKLAVA.
SEE, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A DARE...
LEAVE SOME FOOD FOR THE MASSES.
OKAY.
OUR LITTLE PROBLEM WITH PETROVIC?
TAKEN CARE OF.
IT WAS CITIZEN V IN A HOLOGRAPHIC DISGUISE?
NOPE. IT WAS COLONEL MUSTARD WITH THE CANDLESTICK.
WHERE IS HE NOW?
SLEEPING WITH DOMINO.
I WON'T ASK.
YOU LET HIM GO?
AND LEFT WITH A CLEARED CONSCIENCE.
HE WISHED YOU LUCK.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, DOM? HOW IS YOUR CONSCIENCE NOW...?


GUESS THAT ANSWERS THAT.
DOMINO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GET BEHIND ME, MR. PRESIDENT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN.
SHE'S NOT GOING TO FIRE.
KAPOW!
NO!
OH.
I CAN PROJECT AND CONFIGURE A *GRAVIMETRIC SHEATH* FROM MY BODY, CAPTAIN. NOTHING CAN HURT ME.
WELL, NOTHING PHYSICAL AT ANY RATE... DOMINO...


I HEARD A GUNSHOT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, WADE. DOMINO WAS JUST PROVING A POINT.
AND WHAT POINT IS THAT? SHE CAN WASTE AMMO TRYING TO SHOOT YOU?
NO...


...THAT SHE CAN KILL ME ANY TIME SHE WANTS.
BINGO.
THE FIRST SHOT WAS ONLY TO GAUGE THE EXTENT OF MY NEW GRAVIMETRIC FIELD.
BINGO AGAIN.
DOMINO-- PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU!
APPARENTLY, MICHAEL, YOUR CHOICE IS ALREADY MADE.
THEN WHY CAN'T YOU ACCEPT IT?
BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T TRUST ME. SHE CAN'T.
SHE THINKS I'M GOING TO RUIN THIS.
LIKE I HAVE EVERYTHING ELSE FOR AS LONG AS SHE'S KNOWN ME.

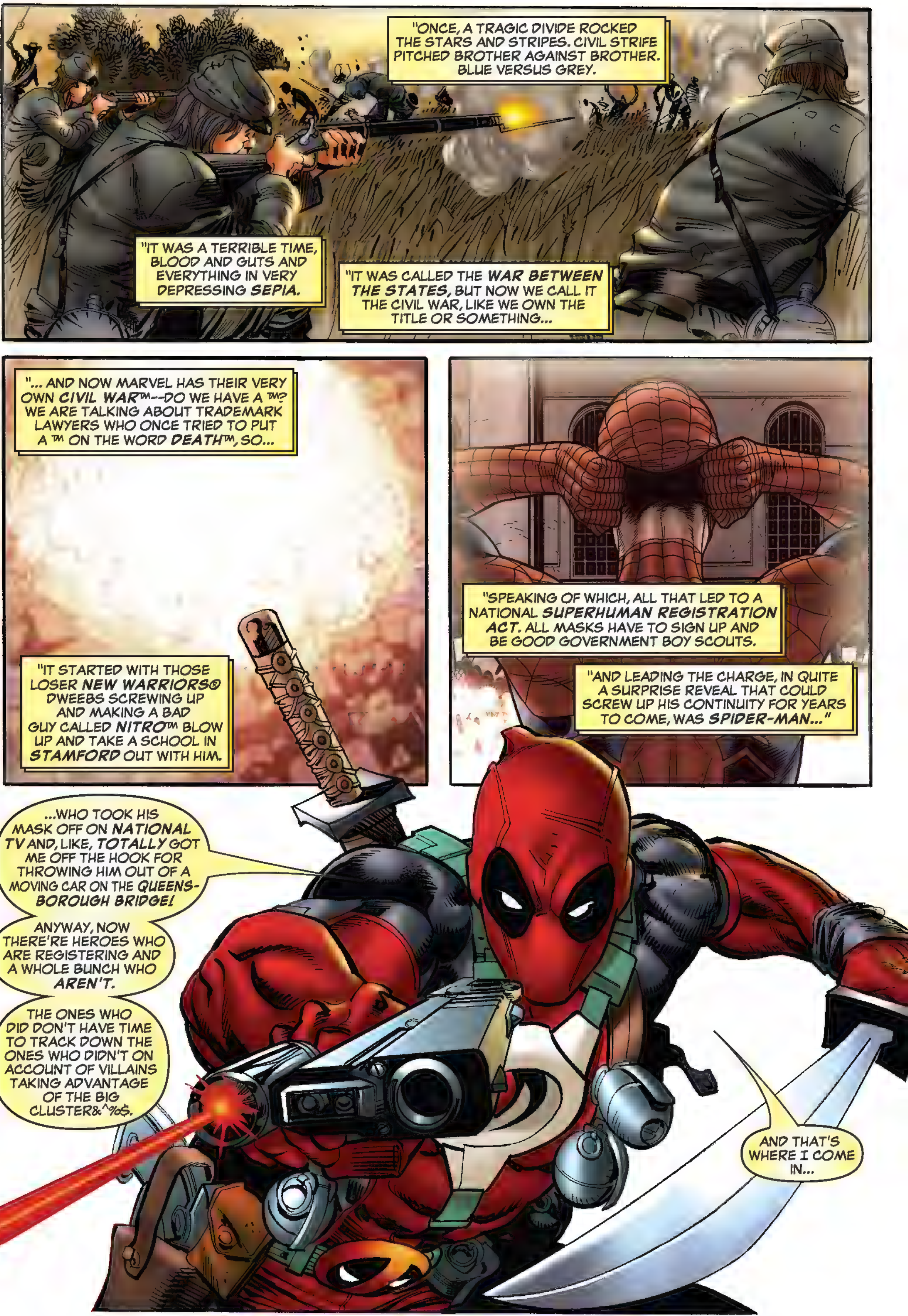

BUT... WHAT IF I DON'T?
WHAT IF YOU DO?
I HATE YOU, NATE...FOR MAKING ME WONDER IF... MAKING ME HOPE THAT YOU COULD DO THIS...
...BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO FAIL--AND BECAUSE I KNOW THAT, I'M EVEN MORE TERRIFIED...
...AT THE THOUGHT THAT YOU'LL SUCCEED...
AH, WOMEN! LAST THING YOU NEED IS HILARY CLINTON NAGGING IN YOUR EAR, MEDICARE THIS, BOLIVIA THAT, RIGHT?
I MEAN, SHE'S A PIECE OF WORK AND ALL, BUT THE WHITE SKIN IS KINDA CREEPY--SHE IS WHITE ALL OVER, RIGHT? AND ALSO--
UHM... WILSON...PERHAPS WE SHOULD...LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR NOW...
NAH, LISTEN, I KNOW NATE, THIS KINDA CRAP NEVER BOTHERS HIM. HE'S, LIKE, GOT CONFIDENCE UP THE YIN-YANG.
HE DOESN'T NEED ANYONE TELLING HIM HE'S DOING THE RIGHT THING, 'CAUSE HE KNOWS HE IS. HE'S A ROCK, I TELL YA.
WHO CARES WHAT SHE THINKS, RIGHT?
RIGHT...?

CABLE & DEADPOOL

A MARVEL COMICS EVENT

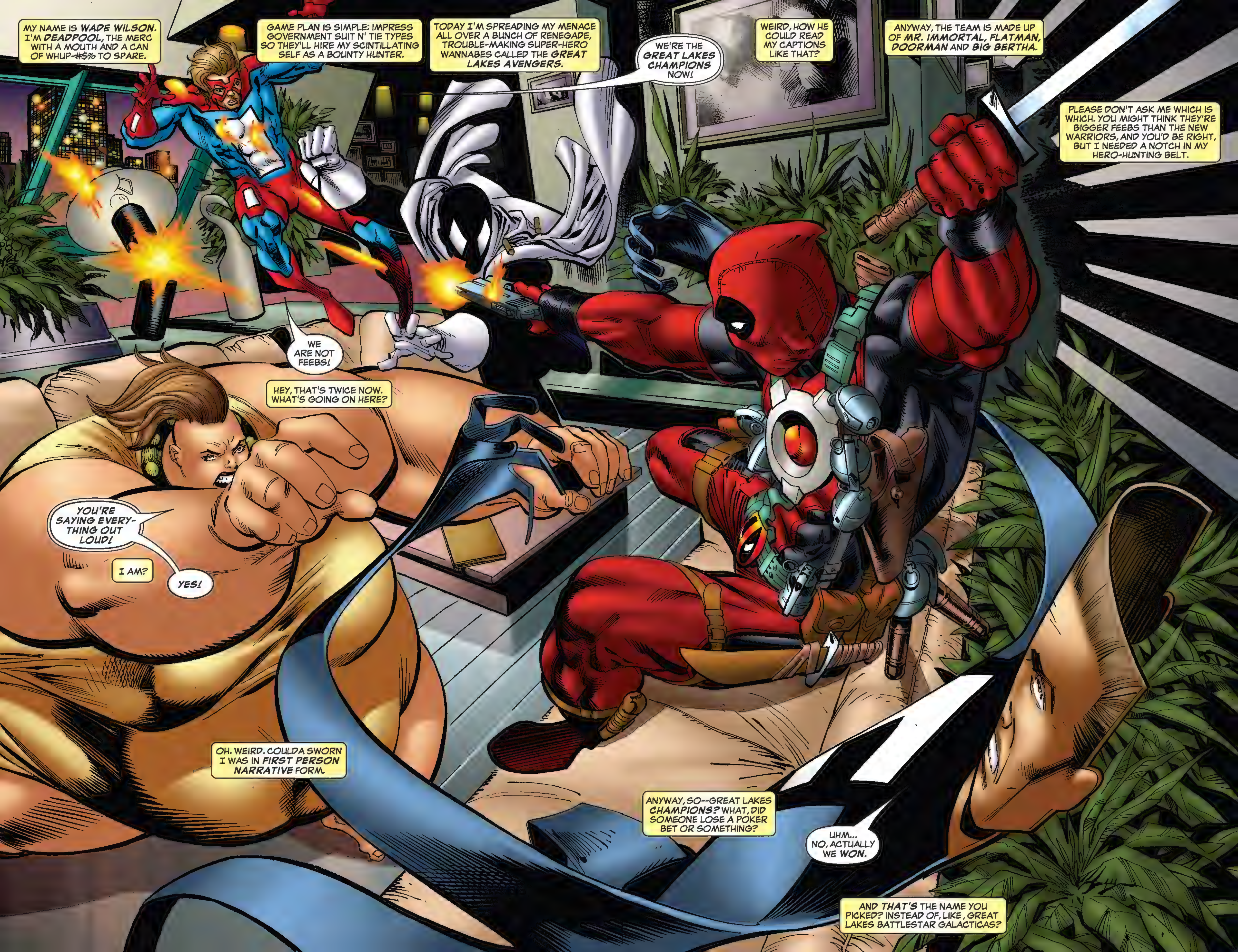
CIVIL WAR

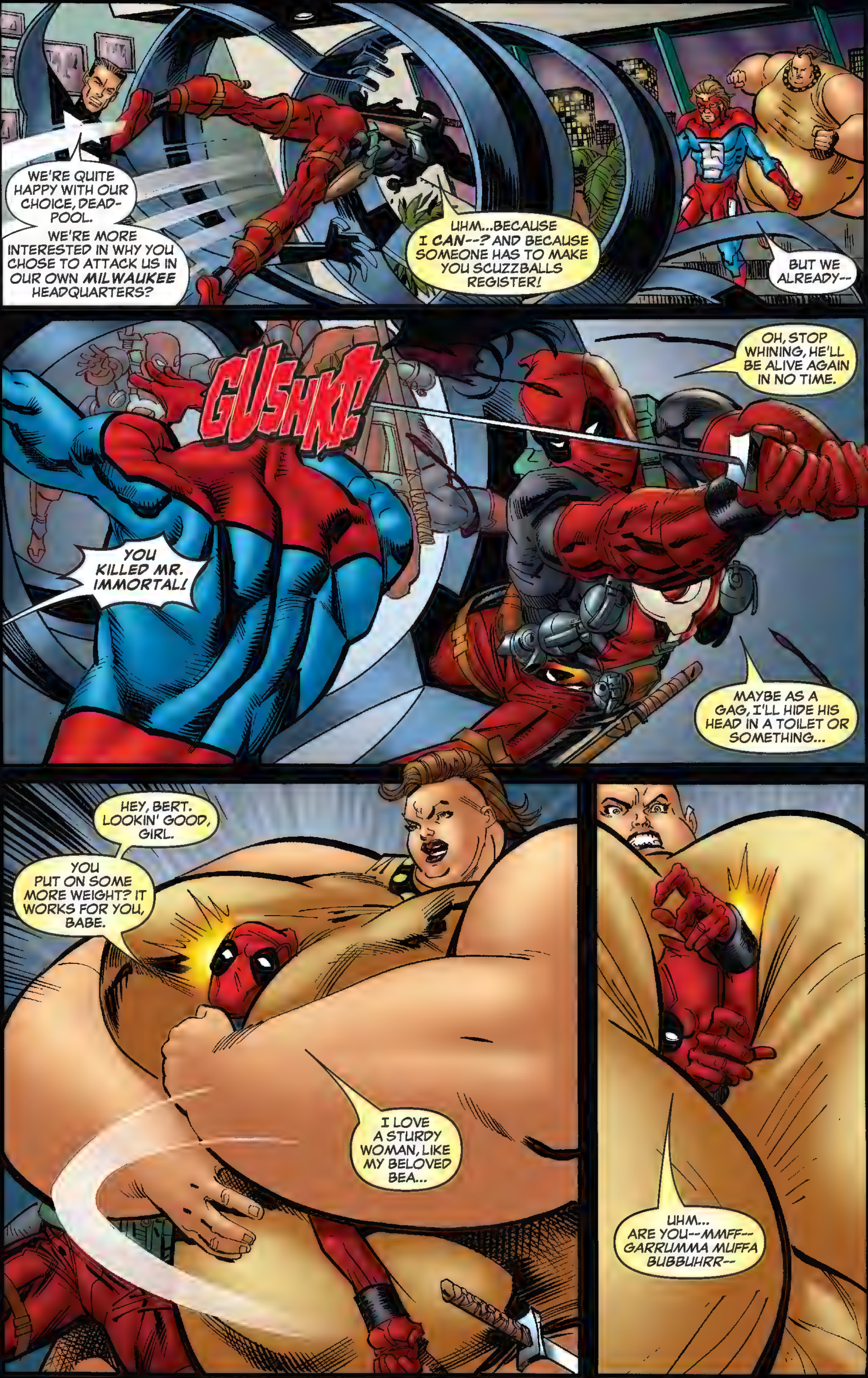
30

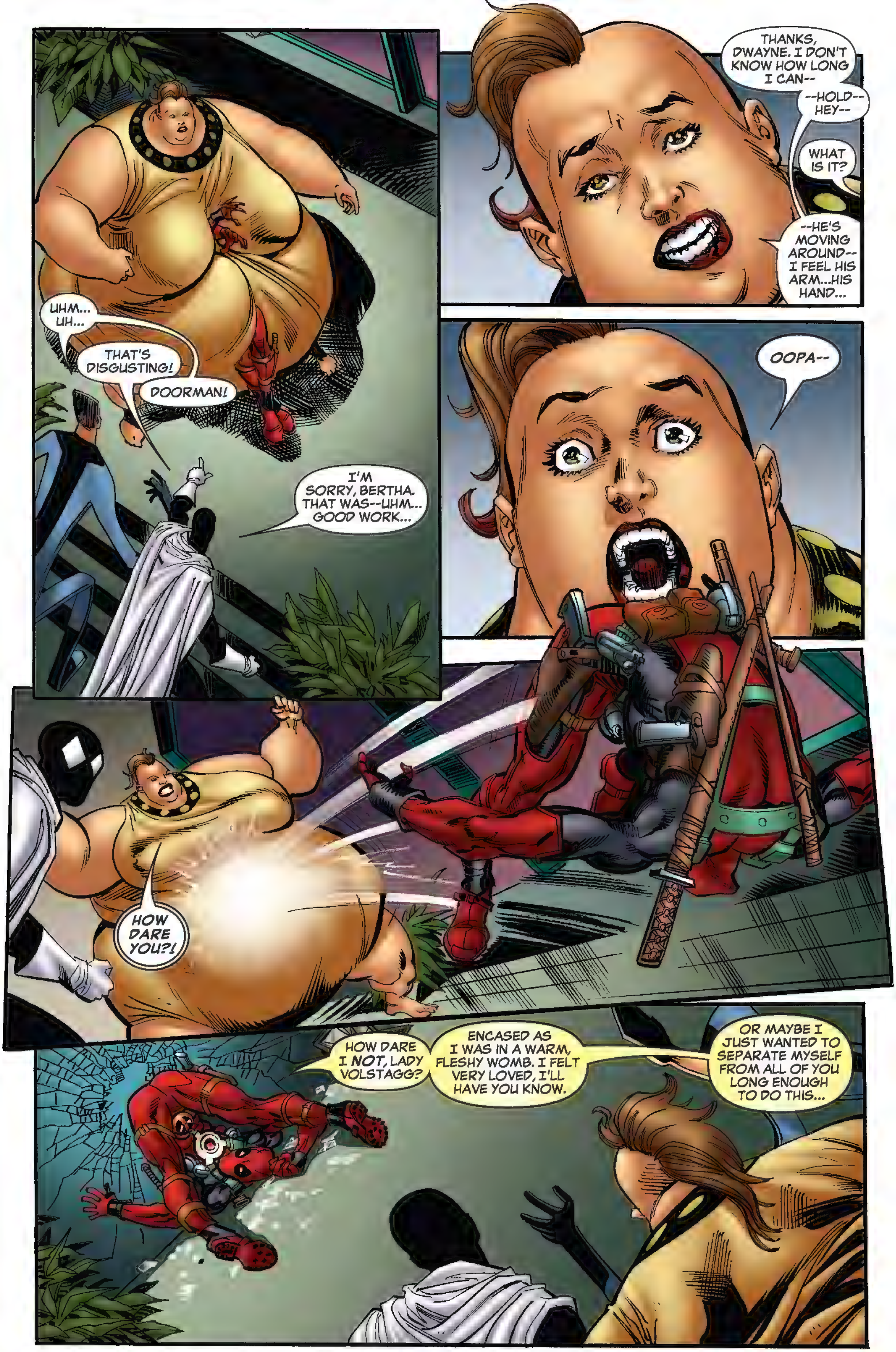

"ONCE, A TRAGIC DIVIDE ROCKED THE STARS AND STRIPES. CIVIL STRIFE PITCHED BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER. BLUE VERSUS GREY.
"IT WAS A TERRIBLE TIME, BLOOD AND GUTS AND EVERYTHING IN VERY DEPRESSING **SEPIA.**
"IT WAS CALLED THE **WAR BETWEEN THE STATES,** BUT NOW WE CALL IT THE CIVIL WAR, LIKE WE OWN THE TITLE OR SOMETHING...
"... AND NOW MARVEL HAS THEIR VERY OWN **CIVIL WAR**™--DO WE HAVE A ™? WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TRADEMARK LAWYERS WHO ONCE TRIED TO PUT A ™ ON THE WORD **DEATH**™, SO...
"IT STARTED WITH THOSE LOSER **NEW WARRIORS®** DWEEBS SCREWING UP AND MAKING A BAD GUY CALLED **NITRO**™ BLOW UP AND TAKE A SCHOOL IN **STAMFORD** OUT WITH HIM.
"SPEAKING OF WHICH, ALL THAT LED TO A NATIONAL **SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT.** ALL MASKS HAVE TO SIGN UP AND BE GOOD GOVERNMENT BOY SCOUTS.
"AND LEADING THE CHARGE, IN QUITE A SURPRISE REVEAL THAT COULD SCREW UP HIS CONTINUITY FOR YEARS TO COME, WAS **SPIDER-MAN...**"
...WHO TOOK HIS MASK OFF ON **NATIONAL TV** AND, LIKE, **TOTALLY** GOT ME OFF THE HOOK FOR THROWING HIM OUT OF A MOVING CAR ON THE **QUEENSBOROUGH BRIDGE!**
ANYWAY, NOW THERE'RE HEROES WHO ARE REGISTERING AND A WHOLE BUNCH WHO **AREN'T.**
THE ONES WHO DID DON'T HAVE TIME TO TRACK DOWN THE ONES WHO DIDN'T ON ACCOUNT OF VILLAINS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE BIG CLUSTER&^%$.
AND THAT'S WHERE I COME IN...

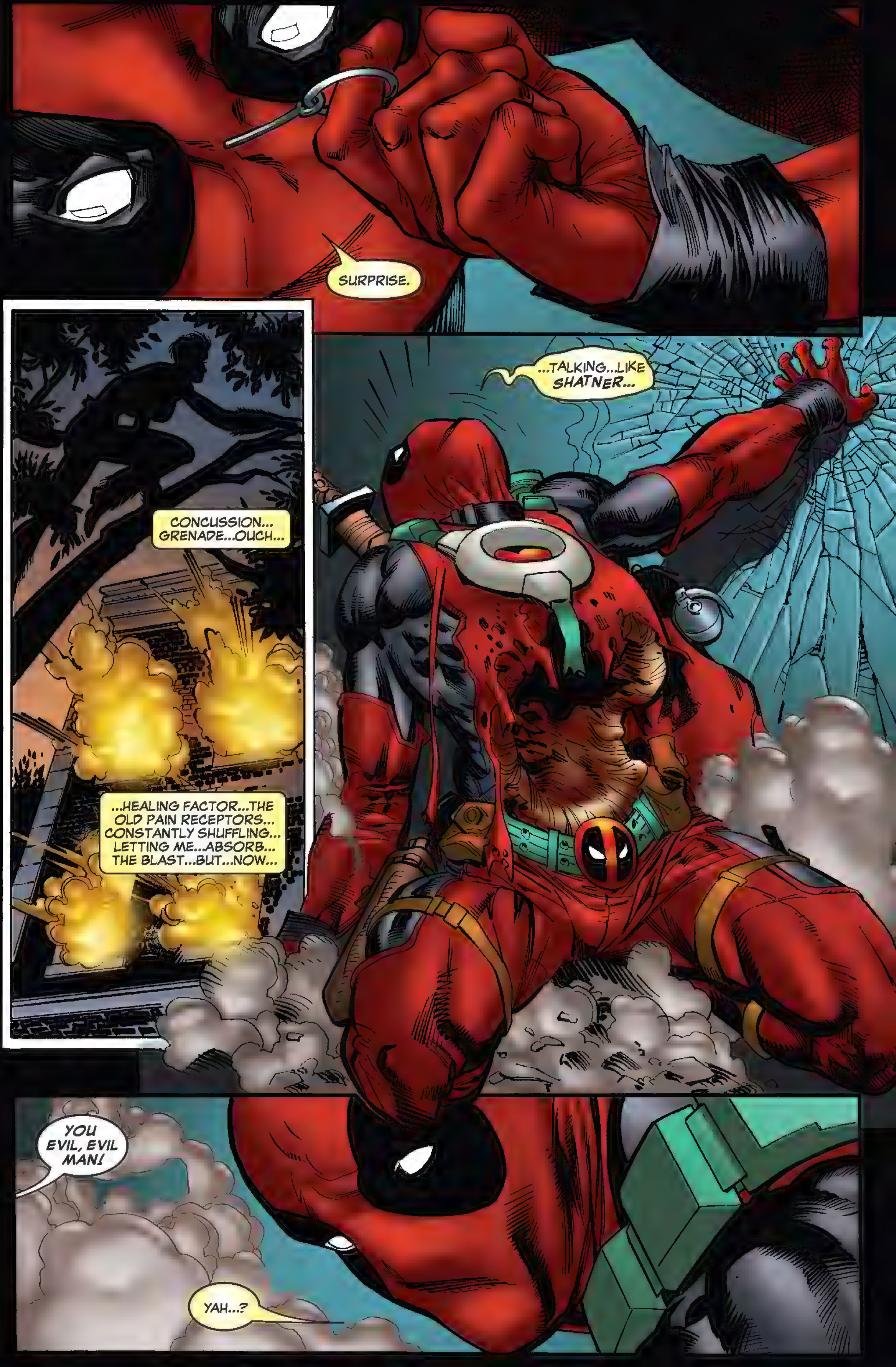
THE HERO HUNTER

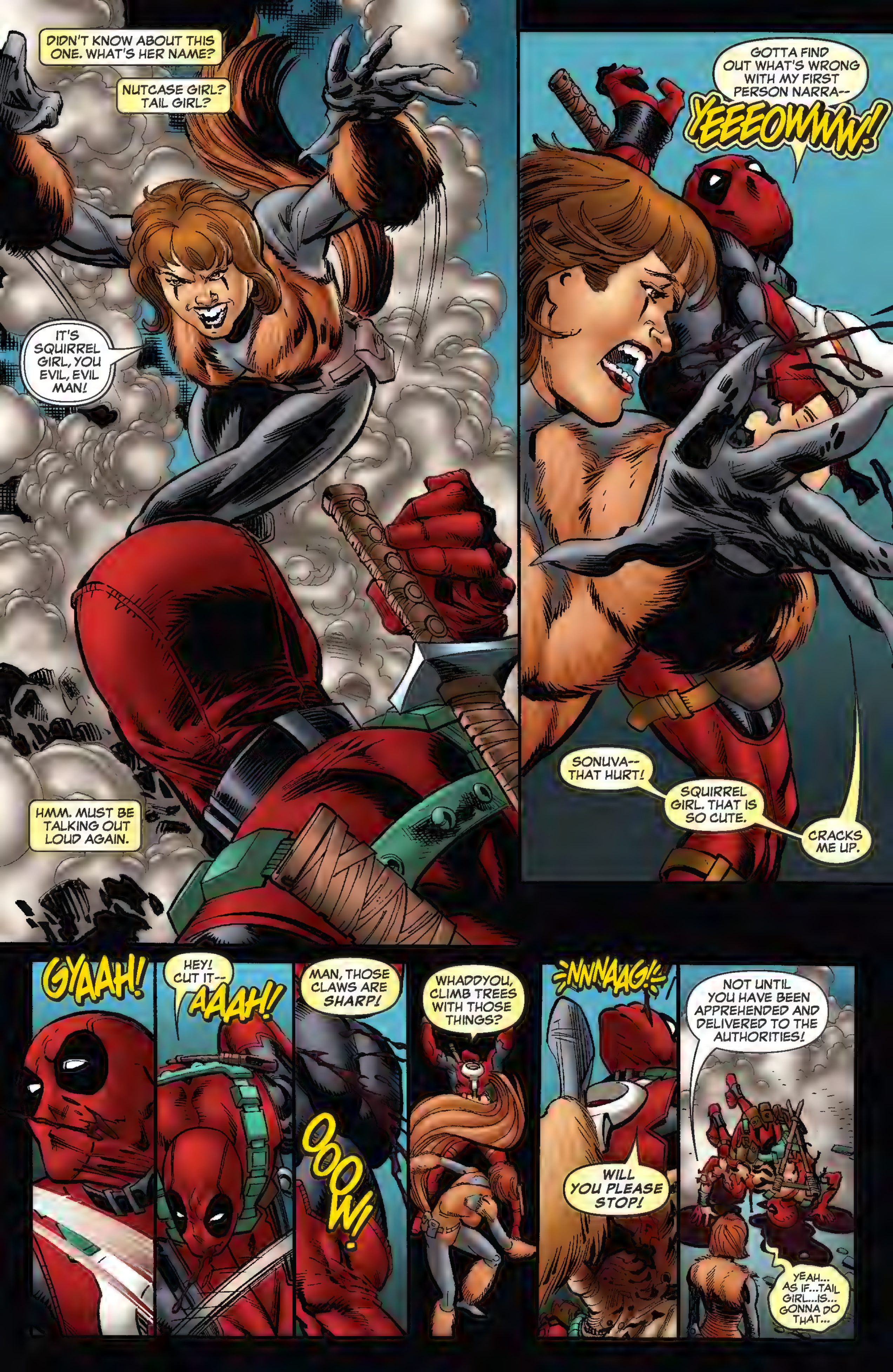
A MARVEL CIVIL WAR TIE-IN

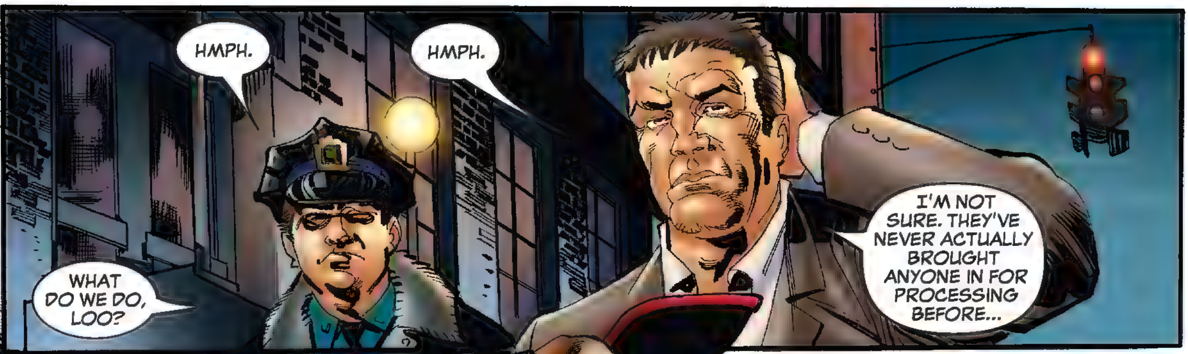

MY NAME IS WADE WILSON. I'M DEADPOOL, THE MERC WITH A MOUTH AND A CAN OF WHUP-#$% TO SPARE.
GAME PLAN IS SIMPLE: IMPRESS GOVERNMENT SUIT N' TIE TYPES SO THEY'LL HIRE MY SCINTILLATING SELF AS A BOUNTY HUNTER.
TODAY I'M SPREADING MY MENACE ALL OVER A BUNCH OF RENEGADE, TROUBLE-MAKING SUPER-HERO WANNABES CALLED THE GREAT LAKES AVENGERS.
WE'RE THE GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONS NOW!
WEIRD, HOW HE COULD READ MY CAPTIONS LIKE THAT?
ANYWAY, THE TEAM IS MADE UP OF MR. IMMORTAL, FLATMAN, DOORMAN AND BIG BERTHA.
PLEASE DON'T ASK ME WHICH IS WHICH. YOU MIGHT THINK THEY'RE BIGGER FEEBS THAN THE NEW WARRIORS, AND YOU'D BE RIGHT, BUT I NEEDED A NOTCH IN MY HERO-HUNTING BELT.
WE ARE NOT FEEBS!
HEY, THAT'S TWICE NOW. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
YOU'RE SAYING EVERYTHING OUT LOUD!
I AM?
YES!
OH. WEIRD. COULDA SWORN I WAS IN FIRST PERSON NARRATIVE FORM.
ANYWAY, SO--GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONS? WHAT, DID SOMEONE LOSE A POKER BET OR SOMETHING?
UHM... NO, ACTUALLY WE WON.
AND THAT'S THE NAME YOU PICKED? INSTEAD OF, LIKE, GREAT LAKES BATTLESTAR GALACTICAS?

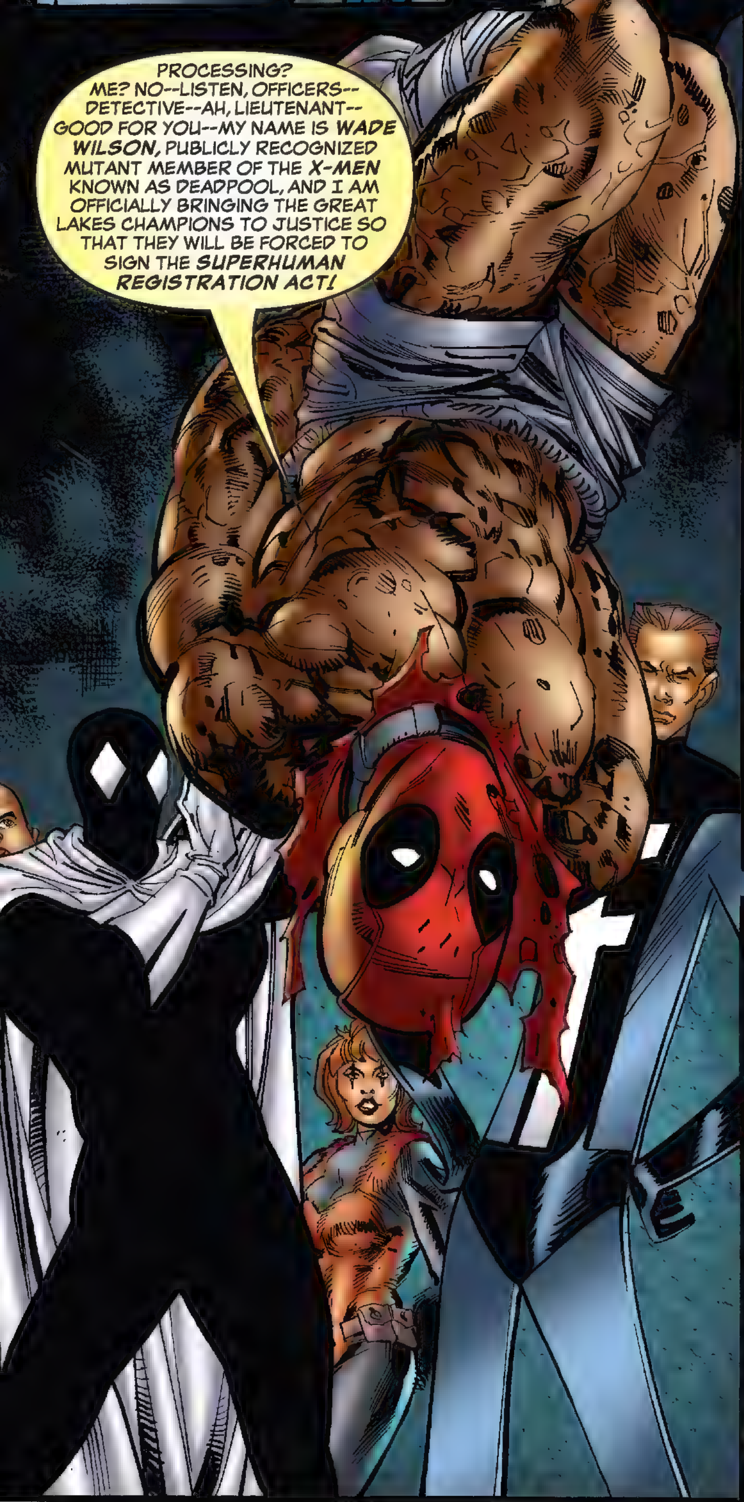

WE'RE QUITE HAPPY WITH OUR CHOICE, DEAD-POOL.
WE'RE MORE INTERESTED IN WHY YOU CHOSE TO ATTACK US IN OUR OWN *MILWAUKEE* HEADQUARTERS?
UHM...BECAUSE I *CAN--?* AND BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS TO MAKE YOU SCUZZBALLS REGISTER!
BUT WE ALREADY--
GUSHK!
OH, STOP WHINING, HE'LL BE ALIVE AGAIN IN NO TIME.
YOU KILLED MR. IMMORTAL!
MAYBE AS A GAG, I'LL HIDE HIS HEAD IN A TOILET OR SOMETHING...
HEY, BERT. LOOKIN' GOOD, GIRL.
YOU PUT ON SOME MORE WEIGHT? IT WORKS FOR YOU, BABE.
I LOVE A STURDY WOMAN, LIKE MY BELOVED BEA...
UHM... ARE YOU--*MMFF-- GARRUMMA MUFFA BUBBUHRR--*

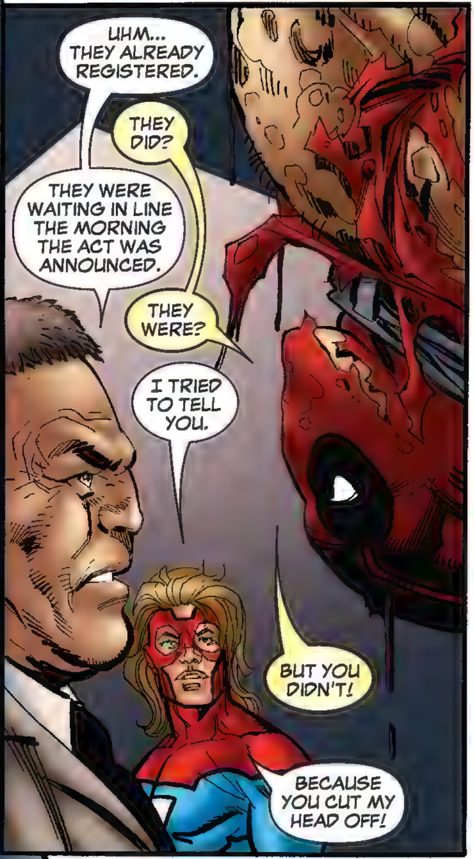

UHM... UH...
THAT'S DISGUSTING!
DOORMAN!
I'M SORRY, BERTHA. THAT WAS--UHM... GOOD WORK...
THANKS, DWAYNE. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN--
--HOLD-- HEY--
WHAT IS IT?
--HE'S MOVING AROUND-- I FEEL HIS ARM...HIS HAND...
OOPA--
HOW DARE YOU?!
HOW DARE I *NOT*, LADY VOLSTAGG?
ENCASED AS I WAS IN A WARM, FLESHY WOMB. I FELT VERY LOVED, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW.
OR MAYBE I JUST WANTED TO SEPARATE MYSELF FROM ALL OF YOU LONG ENOUGH TO DO THIS...

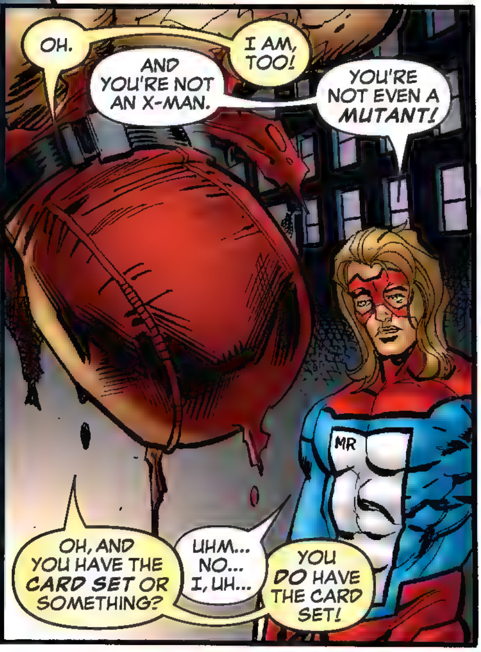

SURPRISE.
CONCUSSION... GRENADE...OUCH...
...HEALING FACTOR...THE OLD PAIN RECEPTORS... CONSTANTLY SHUFFLING... LETTING ME...ABSORB... THE BLAST...BUT...NOW...
...TALKING...LIKE *SHATNER*...
YOU EVIL, EVIL MAN!
YAH...?

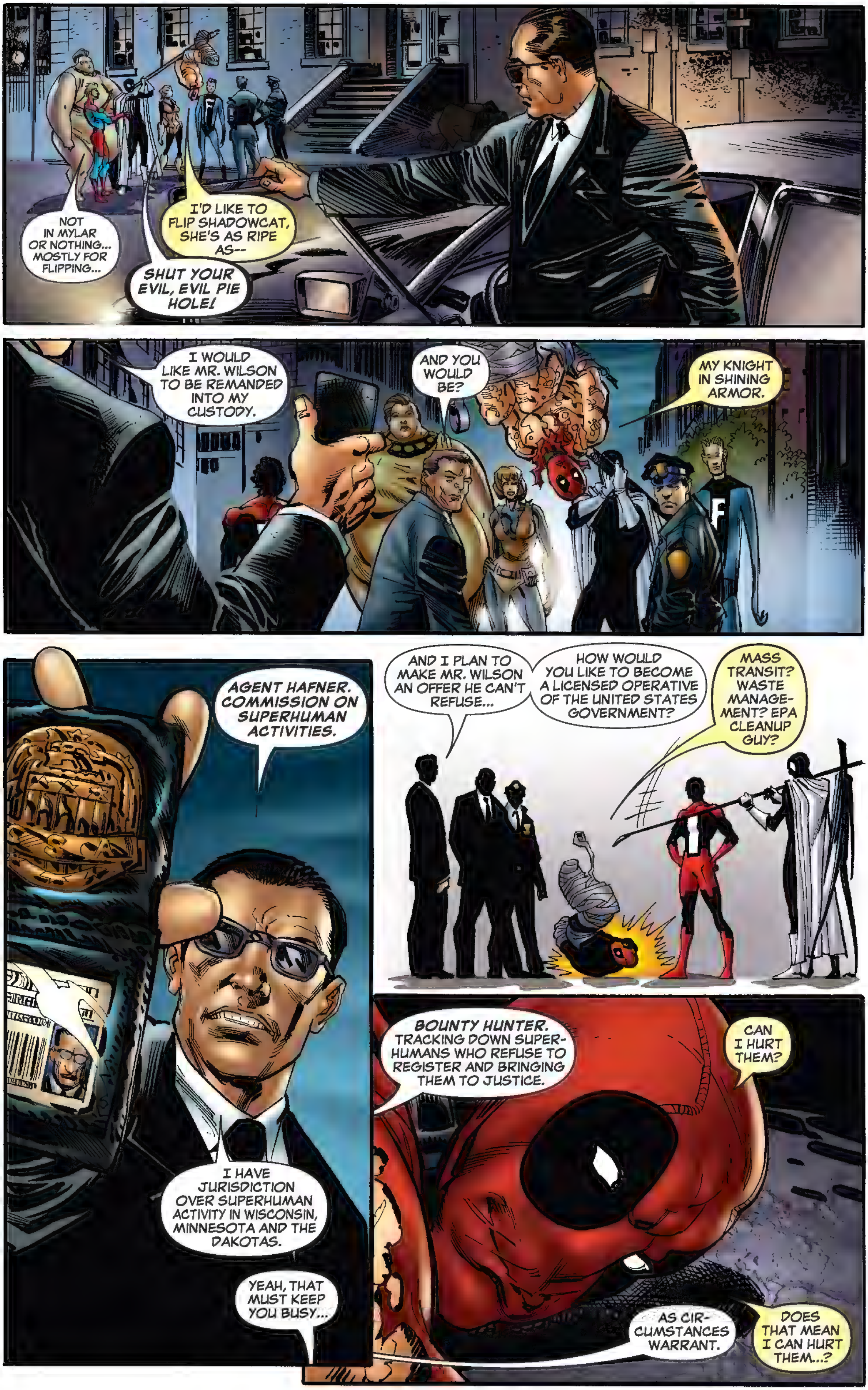

DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS ONE. WHAT'S HER NAME?
NUTCASE GIRL? TAIL GIRL?
IT'S SQUIRREL GIRL, YOU EVIL, EVIL MAN!
HMM. MUST BE TALKING OUT LOUD AGAIN.
GOTTA FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY FIRST PERSON NARRA--
YEEEOWWW!
SONUVA-- THAT HURT!
SQUIRREL GIRL. THAT IS SO CUTE.
CRACKS ME UP.
GYAAH!
HEY! CUT IT--
AAAH!
MAN, THOSE CLAWS ARE SHARP!
OOOW!
WHADDYOU, CLIMB TREES WITH THOSE THINGS?
NNNAAG!
WILL YOU PLEASE STOP!
NOT UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED AND DELIVERED TO THE AUTHORITIES!
YEAH... AS IF...TAIL GIRL...IS... GONNA DO THAT...

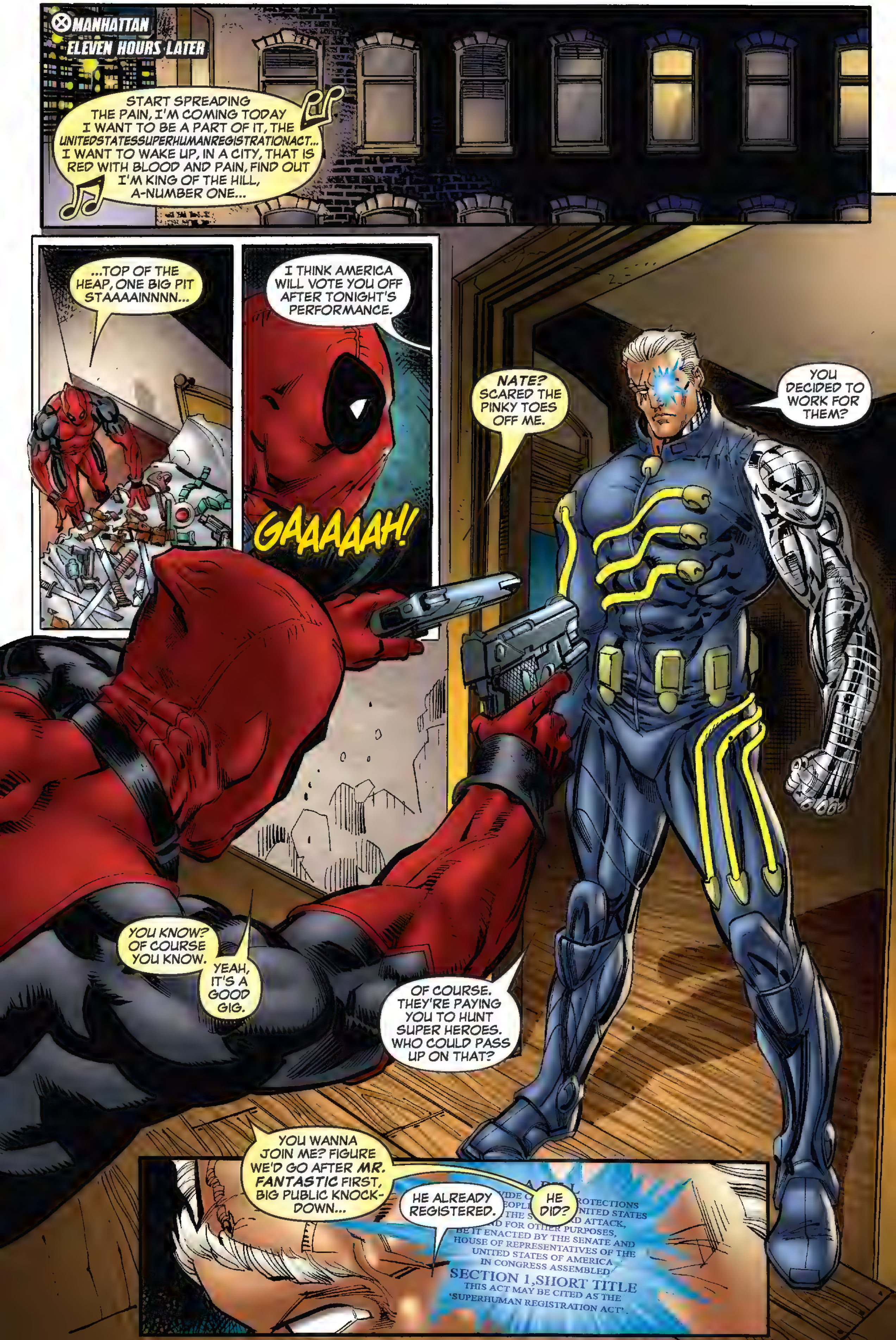

HMPH.
HMPH.
WHAT DO WE DO, LOO?
I'M NOT SURE. THEY'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BROUGHT ANYONE IN FOR PROCESSING BEFORE...

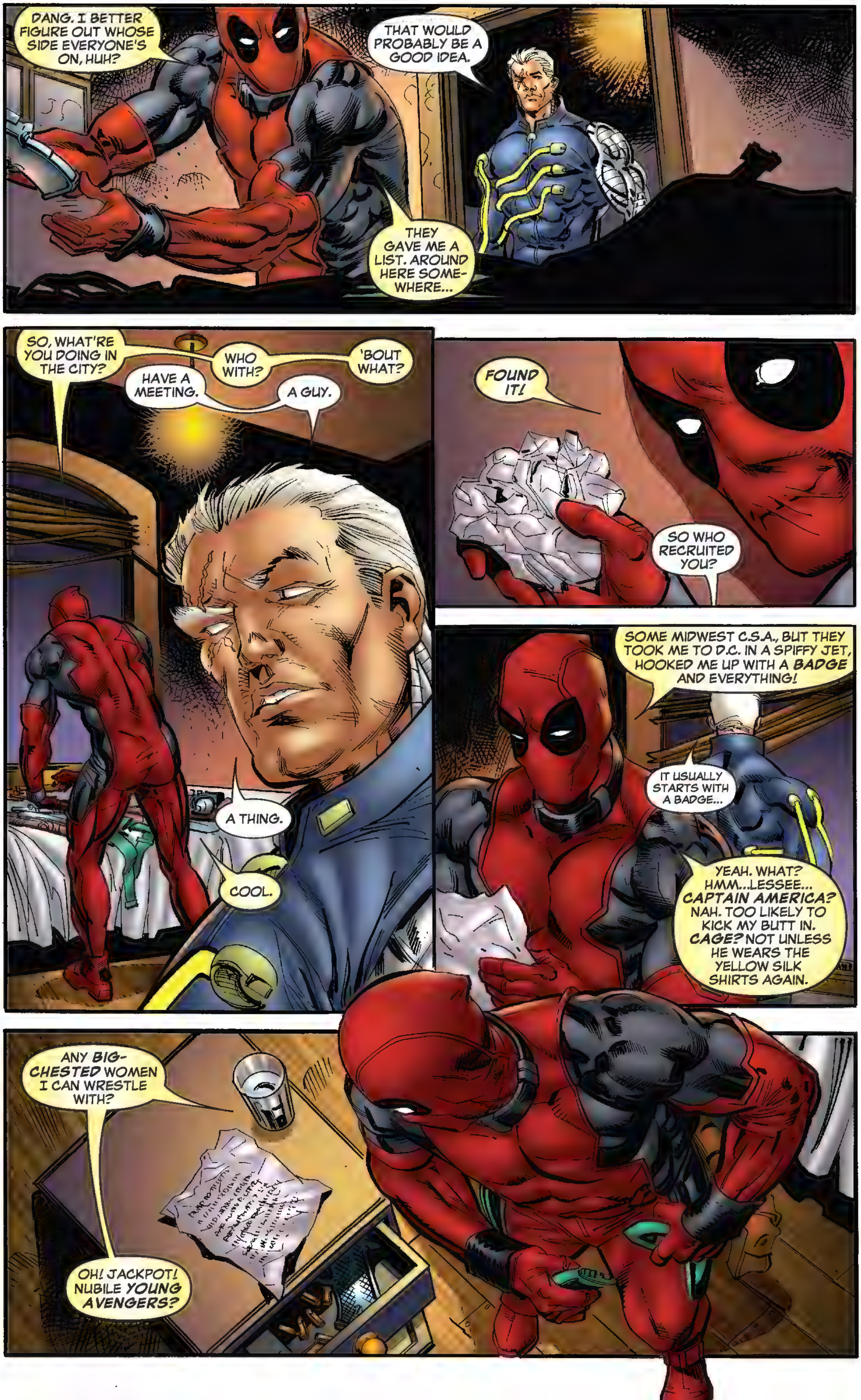

PROCESSING? ME? NO--LISTEN, OFFICERS--DETECTIVE--AH, LIEUTENANT--GOOD FOR YOU--MY NAME IS **WADE WILSON,** PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED MUTANT MEMBER OF THE **X-MEN** KNOWN AS DEADPOOL, AND I AM OFFICIALLY BRINGING THE GREAT LAKES CHAMPIONS TO JUSTICE SO THAT THEY WILL BE FORCED TO SIGN THE **SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT!**

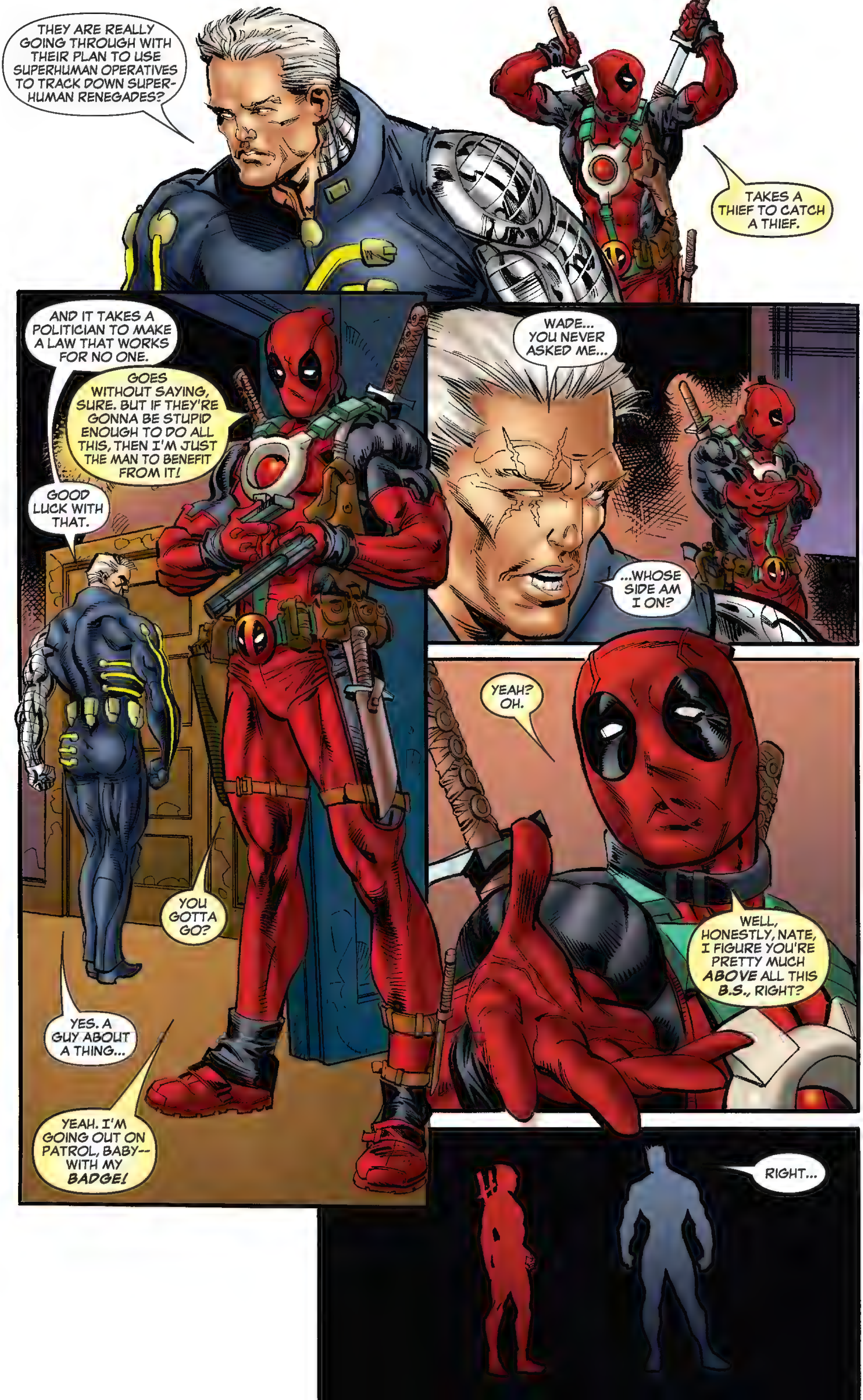

UHM... THEY ALREADY REGISTERED.
THEY DID?
THEY WERE WAITING IN LINE THE MORNING THE ACT WAS ANNOUNCED.
THEY WERE?
I TRIED TO TELL YOU.
BUT YOU DIDN'T!
BECAUSE YOU CUT MY HEAD OFF!

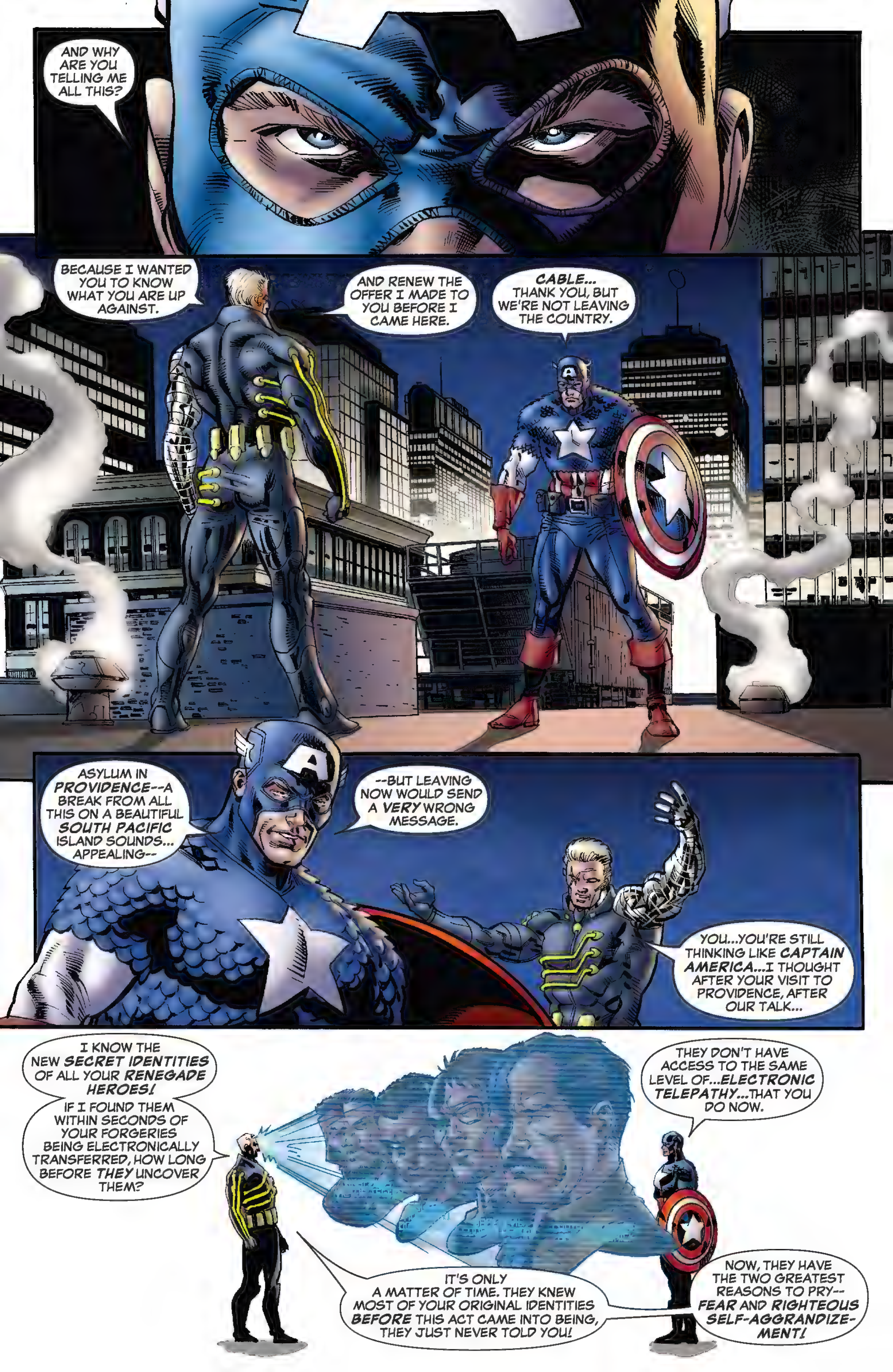

OH.
I AM, TOO!
AND YOU'RE NOT AN X-MAN.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN A **MUTANT!**
MR
OH, AND YOU HAVE THE **CARD SET** OR SOMETHING?
UHM... NO... I, UH...
YOU **DO** HAVE THE CARD SET!

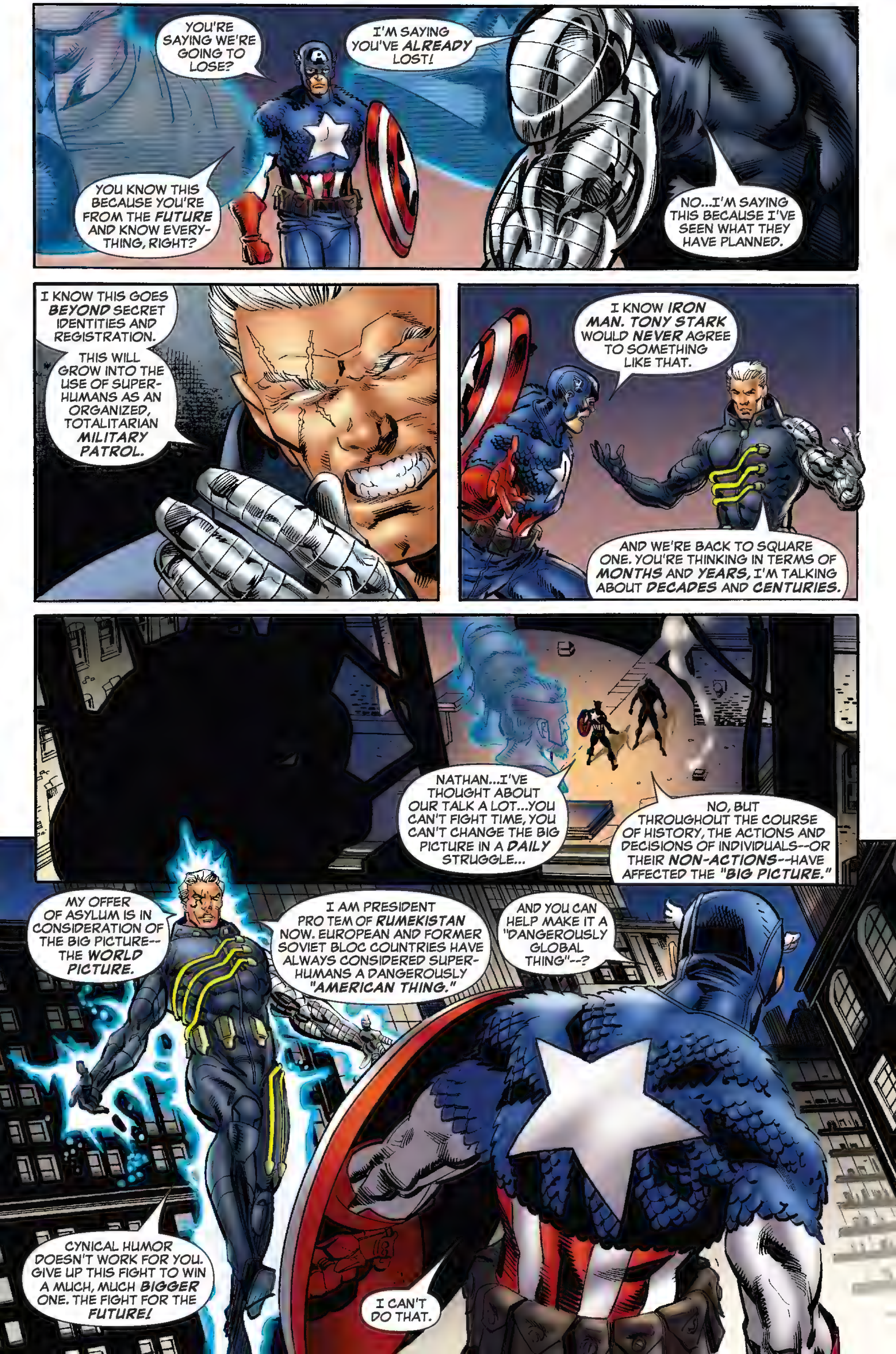

NOT IN MYLAR OR NOTHING... MOSTLY FOR FLIPPING...
I'D LIKE TO FLIP SHADOWCAT, SHE'S AS RIPE AS--
SHUT YOUR EVIL, EVIL PIE HOLE!
I WOULD LIKE MR. WILSON TO BE REMANDED INTO MY CUSTODY.
AND YOU WOULD BE?
MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR.
AGENT HAFNER. COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES.
I HAVE JURISDICTION OVER SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY IN WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA AND THE DAKOTAS.
YEAH, THAT MUST KEEP YOU BUSY...
AND I PLAN TO MAKE MR. WILSON AN OFFER HE CAN'T REFUSE...
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A LICENSED OPERATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT?
MASS TRANSIT? WASTE MANAGEMENT? EPA CLEANUP GUY?
BOUNTY HUNTER. TRACKING DOWN SUPERHUMANS WHO REFUSE TO REGISTER AND BRINGING THEM TO JUSTICE.
CAN I HURT THEM?
AS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT.
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN HURT THEM...?

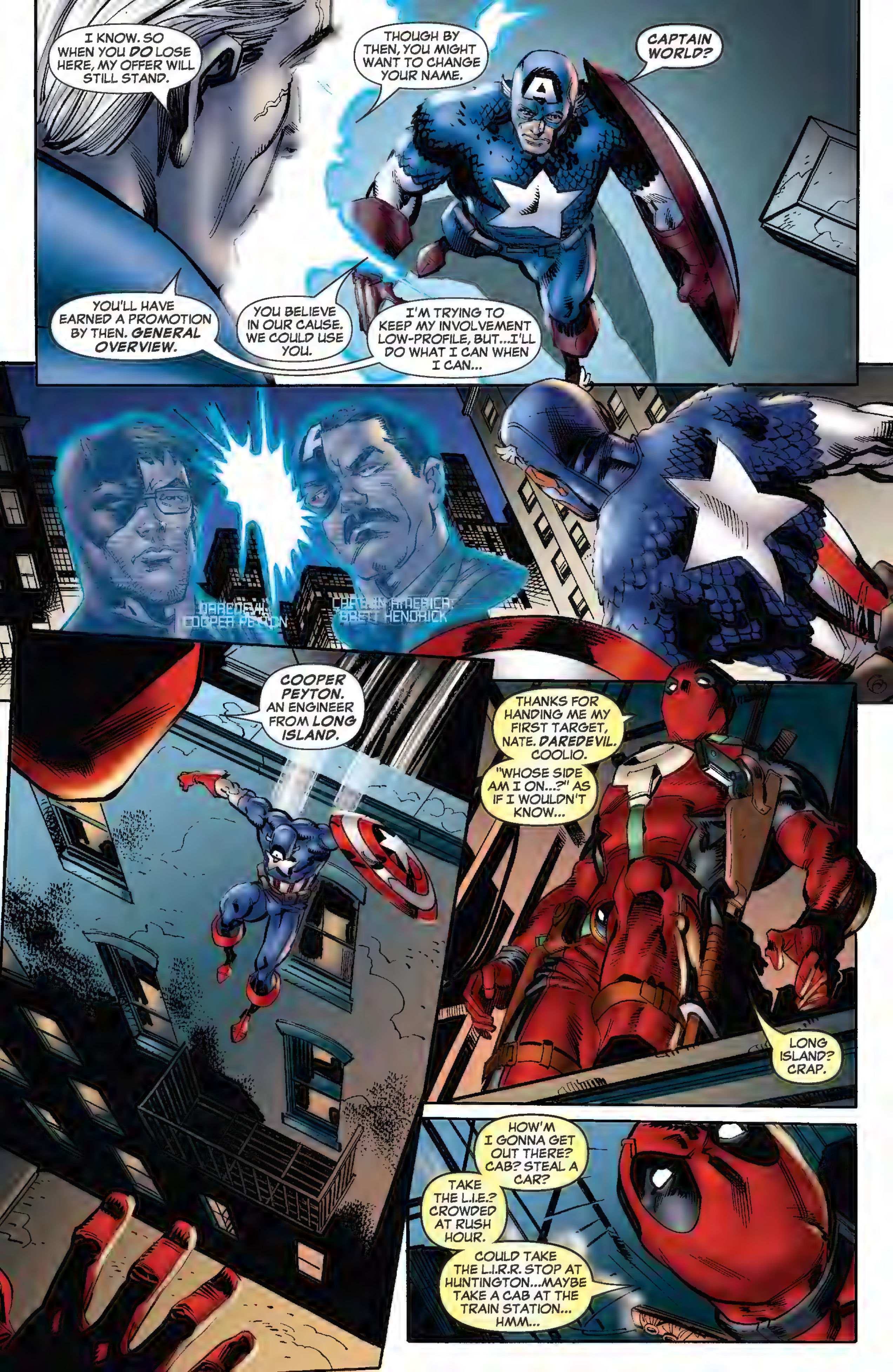

MANHATTAN
ELEVEN HOURS LATER
START SPREADING THE PAIN, I'M COMING TODAY I WANT TO BE A PART OF IT, THE UNITEDSTATESSUPERHUMANREGISTRATIONACT... I WANT TO WAKE UP, IN A CITY, THAT IS RED WITH BLOOD AND PAIN, FIND OUT I'M KING OF THE HILL, A-NUMBER ONE...
...TOP OF THE HEAP, ONE BIG PIT STAAAAINNNN...
I THINK AMERICA WILL VOTE YOU OFF AFTER TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE.
GAAAAAH!
NATE? SCARED THE PINKY TOES OFF ME.
YOU DECIDED TO WORK FOR THEM?
YOU KNOW? OF COURSE YOU KNOW.
YEAH, IT'S A GOOD GIG.
OF COURSE. THEY'RE PAYING YOU TO HUNT SUPER HEROES. WHO COULD PASS UP ON THAT?
YOU WANNA JOIN ME? FIGURE WE'D GO AFTER MR. FANTASTIC FIRST, BIG PUBLIC KNOCK-DOWN...
HE ALREADY REGISTERED.
HE DID?
ROTECTIONS
NITED STATES
D ATTACK,
ND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,
BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED
SECTION 1, SHORT TITLE
THIS ACT MAY BE CITED AS THE 'SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT'.

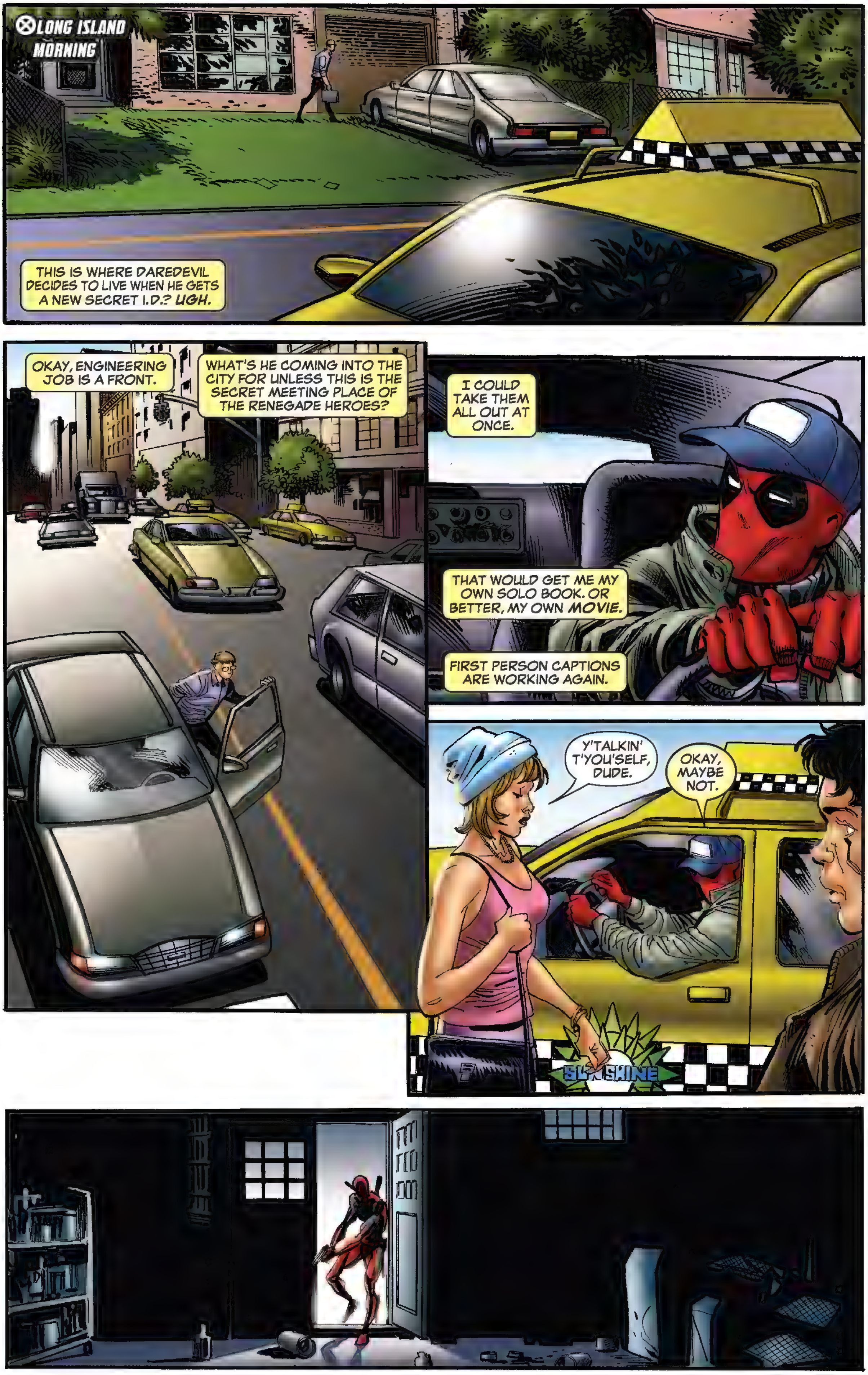

DANG. I BETTER FIGURE OUT WHOSE SIDE EVERYONE'S ON, HUH?
THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA.
THEY GAVE ME A LIST. AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...
SO, WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THE CITY?
HAVE A MEETING.
WHO WITH?
A GUY.
'BOUT WHAT?
A THING.
COOL.
FOUND IT!
SO WHO RECRUITED YOU?
SOME MIDWEST C.S.A., BUT THEY TOOK ME TO D.C. IN A SPIFFY JET, HOOKED ME UP WITH A BADGE AND EVERYTHING!
IT USUALLY STARTS WITH A BADGE...
YEAH. WHAT? HMM...LESSEE... CAPTAIN AMERICA? NAH. TOO LIKELY TO KICK MY BUTT IN. CAGE? NOT UNLESS HE WEARS THE YELLOW SILK SHIRTS AGAIN.
ANY BIG-CHESTED WOMEN I CAN WRESTLE WITH?
OH! JACKPOT! NUBILE YOUNG AVENGERS?

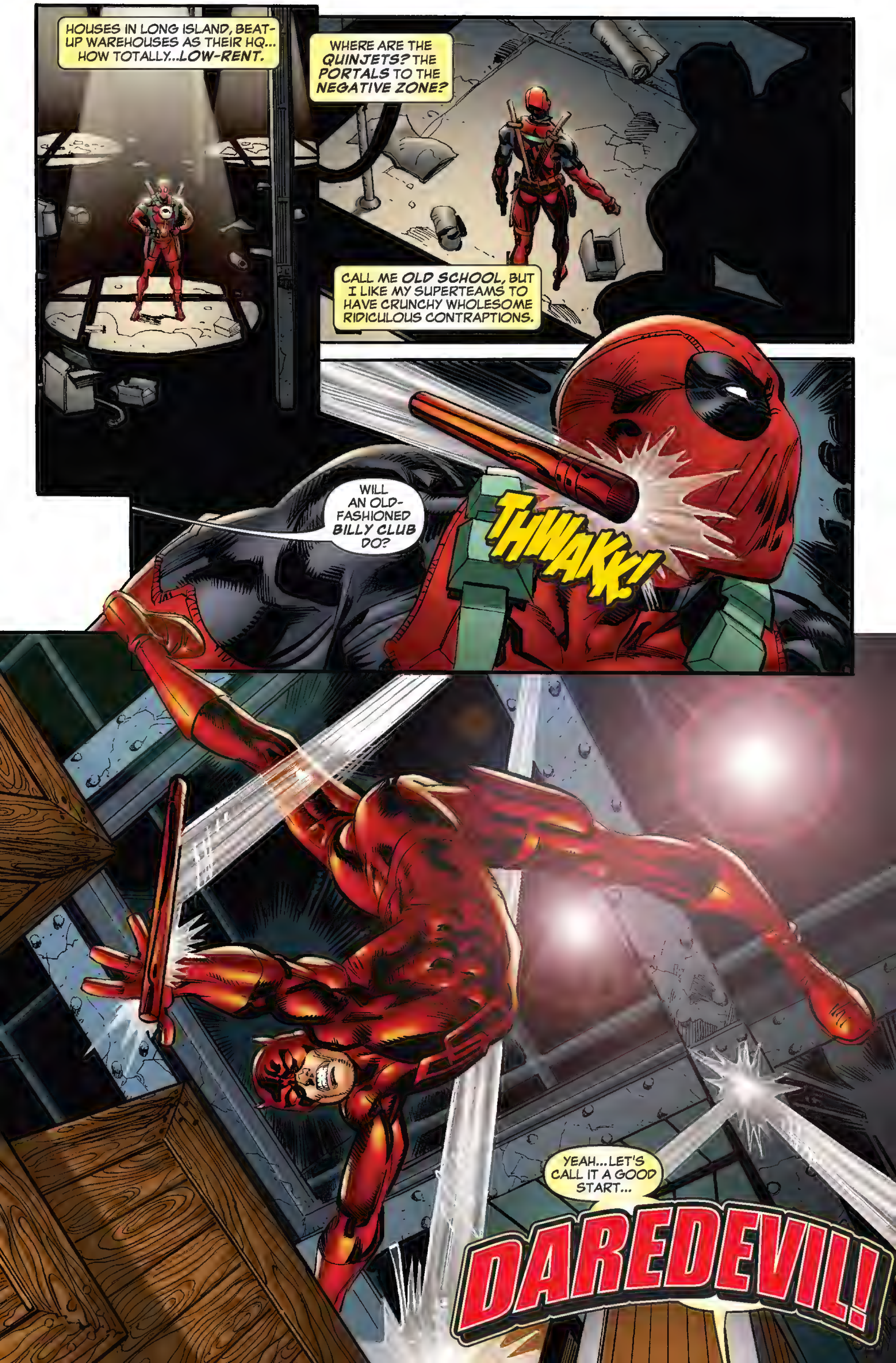

THEY ARE REALLY GOING THROUGH WITH THEIR PLAN TO USE SUPERHUMAN OPERATIVES TO TRACK DOWN SUPERHUMAN RENEGADES?
TAKES A THIEF TO CATCH A THIEF.
AND IT TAKES A POLITICIAN TO MAKE A LAW THAT WORKS FOR NO ONE.
GOES WITHOUT SAYING, SURE. BUT IF THEY'RE GONNA BE STUPID ENOUGH TO DO ALL THIS, THEN I'M JUST THE MAN TO BENEFIT FROM IT!
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
YOU GOTTA GO?
YES. A GUY ABOUT A THING...
YEAH. I'M GOING OUT ON PATROL, BABY-- WITH MY *BADGE!*
WADE... YOU NEVER ASKED ME...
...WHOSE SIDE AM I ON?
YEAH? OH.
WELL, HONESTLY, NATE, I FIGURE YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH *ABOVE* ALL THIS *B.S.*, RIGHT?
RIGHT...

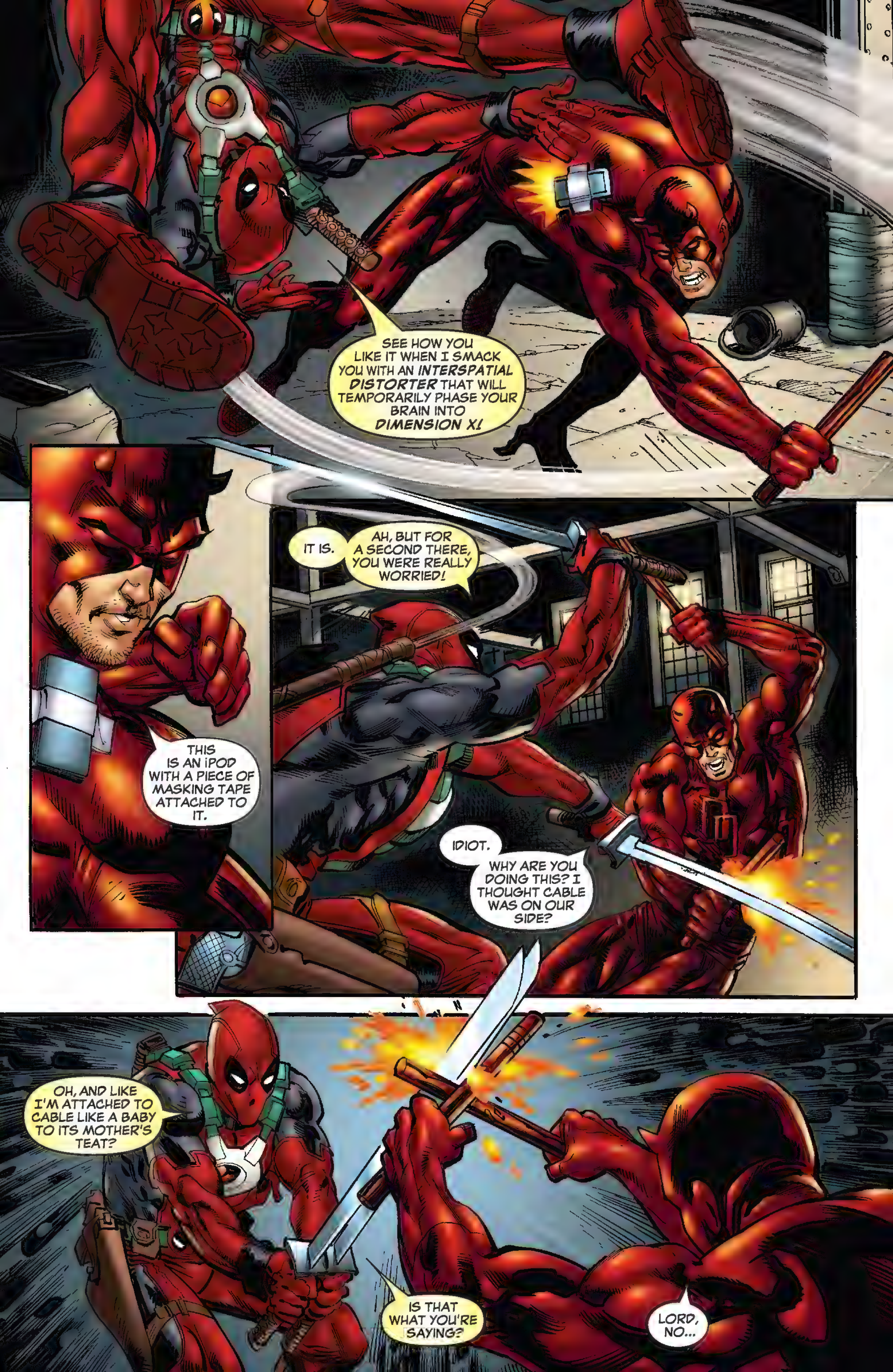

AND WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?
BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE UP AGAINST.
AND RENEW THE OFFER I MADE TO YOU BEFORE I CAME HERE.
CABLE... THANK YOU, BUT WE'RE NOT LEAVING THE COUNTRY.
ASYLUM IN PROVIDENCE--A BREAK FROM ALL THIS ON A BEAUTIFUL SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND SOUNDS... APPEALING--
--BUT LEAVING NOW WOULD SEND A VERY WRONG MESSAGE.
YOU...YOU'RE STILL THINKING LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA...I THOUGHT AFTER YOUR VISIT TO PROVIDENCE, AFTER OUR TALK...
I KNOW THE NEW SECRET IDENTITIES OF ALL YOUR RENEGADE HEROES!
IF I FOUND THEM WITHIN SECONDS OF YOUR FORGERIES BEING ELECTRONICALLY TRANSFERRED, HOW LONG BEFORE THEY UNCOVER THEM?
THEY DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAME LEVEL OF...ELECTRONIC TELEPATHY...THAT YOU DO NOW.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. THEY KNEW MOST OF YOUR ORIGINAL IDENTITIES BEFORE THIS ACT CAME INTO BEING, THEY JUST NEVER TOLD YOU!
NOW, THEY HAVE THE TWO GREATEST REASONS TO PRY--FEAR AND RIGHTEOUS SELF-AGGRANDIZEMENT!

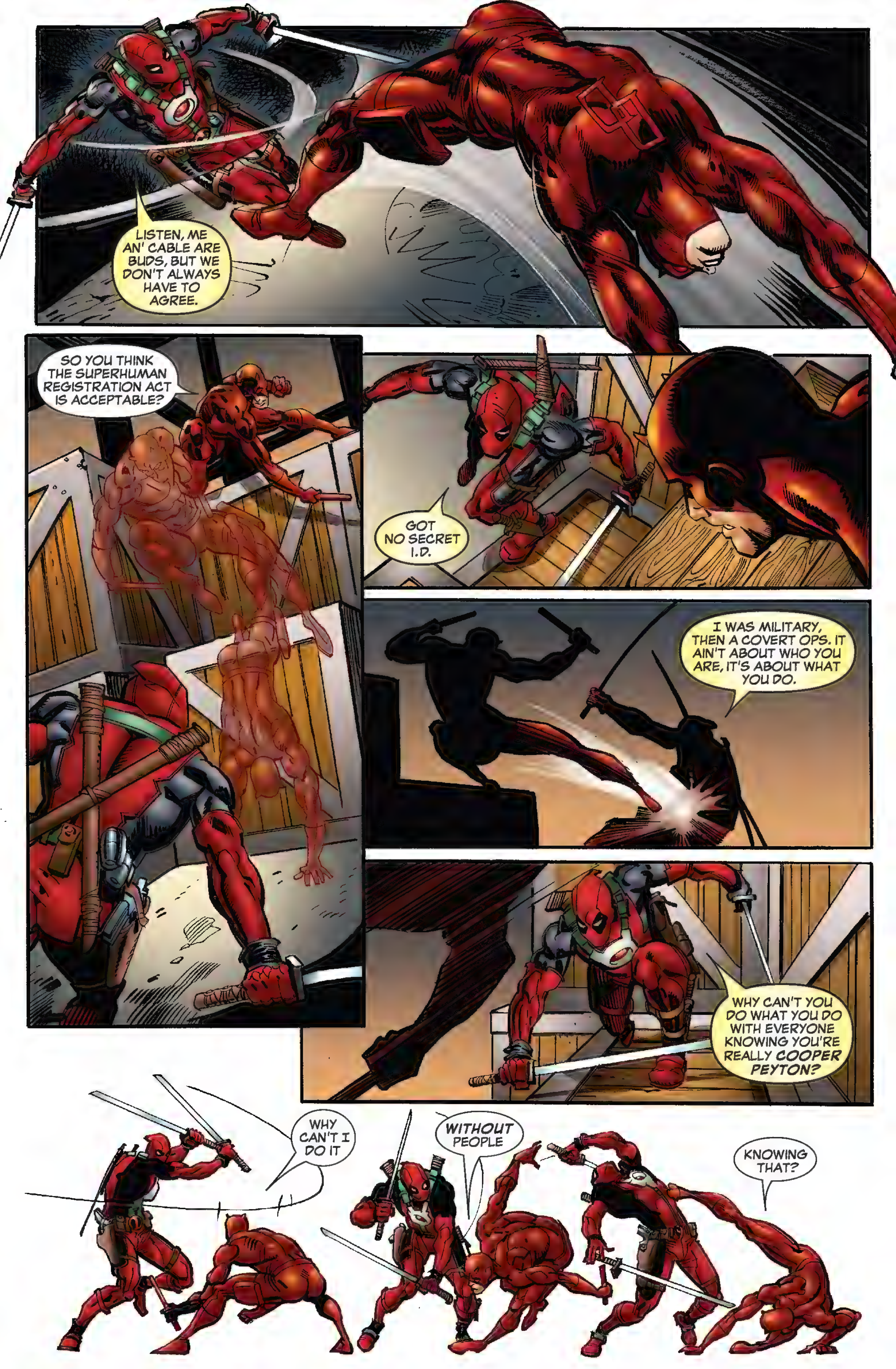

YOU'RE SAYING WE'RE GOING TO LOSE?
I'M SAYING YOU'VE **ALREADY** LOST!
YOU KNOW THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE FROM THE **FUTURE** AND KNOW EVERYTHING, RIGHT?
NO...I'M SAYING THIS BECAUSE I'VE SEEN WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED.
I KNOW THIS GOES **BEYOND** SECRET IDENTITIES AND REGISTRATION.
THIS WILL GROW INTO THE USE OF SUPER-HUMANS AS AN ORGANIZED, TOTALITARIAN **MILITARY PATROL.**
I KNOW **IRON MAN. TONY STARK** WOULD **NEVER** AGREE TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
AND WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE. YOU'RE THINKING IN TERMS OF **MONTHS** AND **YEARS**, I'M TALKING ABOUT **DECADES** AND **CENTURIES.**
NATHAN...I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT OUR TALK A LOT...YOU CAN'T FIGHT TIME, YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE BIG PICTURE IN A **DAILY** STRUGGLE...
NO, BUT THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF HISTORY, THE ACTIONS AND DECISIONS OF INDIVIDUALS--OR THEIR **NON-ACTIONS**--HAVE AFFECTED THE **"BIG PICTURE."**
MY OFFER OF ASYLUM IS IN CONSIDERATION OF THE BIG PICTURE--THE **WORLD PICTURE.**
I AM PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF **RUMEKISTAN** NOW. EUROPEAN AND FORMER SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED SUPER-HUMANS A DANGEROUSLY **"AMERICAN THING."**
AND YOU CAN HELP MAKE IT A "DANGEROUSLY GLOBAL THING"--?
CYNICAL HUMOR DOESN'T WORK FOR YOU. GIVE UP THIS FIGHT TO WIN A MUCH, MUCH **BIGGER** ONE. THE FIGHT FOR THE **FUTURE!**
I CAN'T DO THAT.

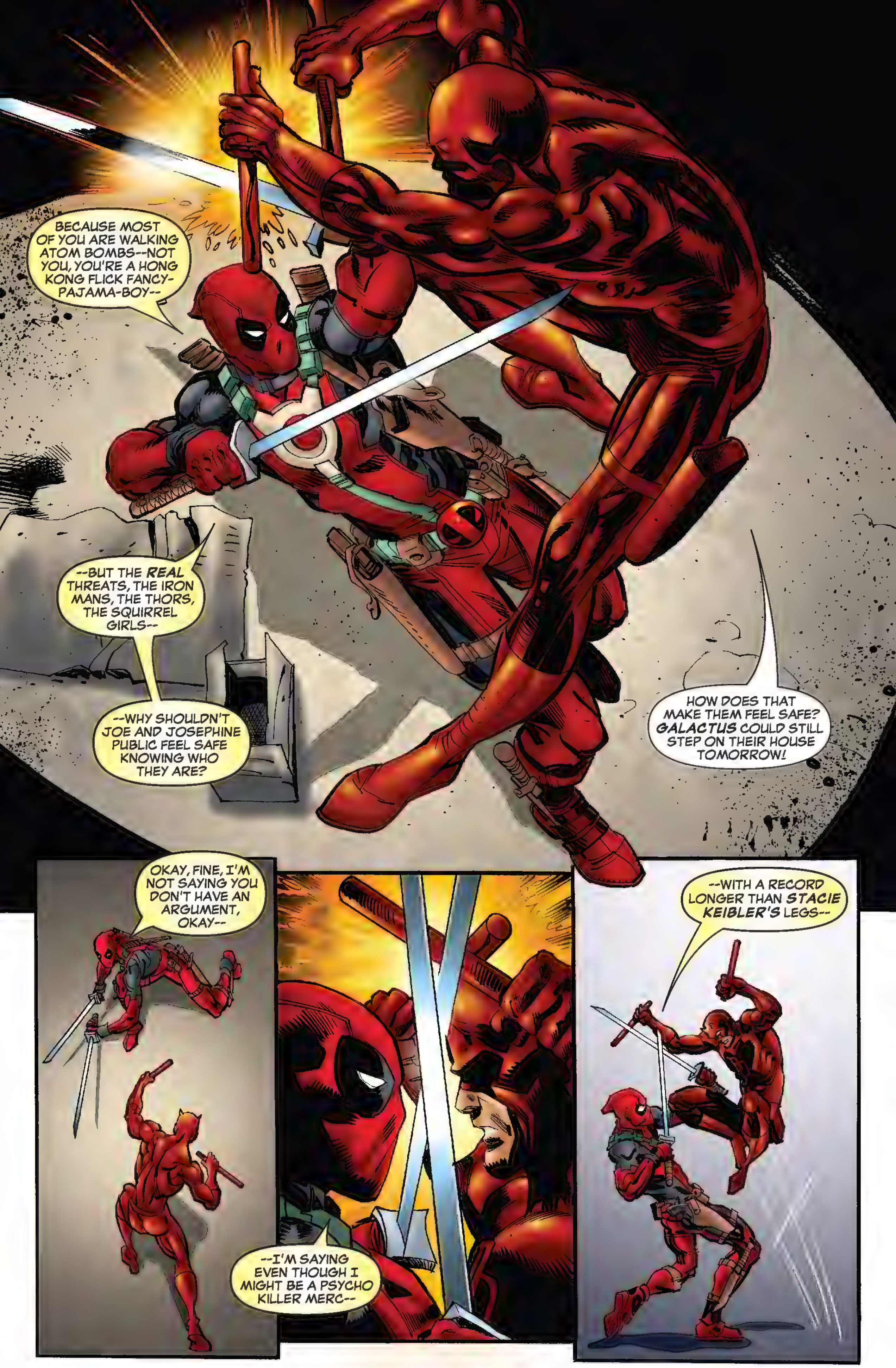

I KNOW. SO WHEN YOU ***DO*** LOSE HERE, MY OFFER WILL STILL STAND.
THOUGH BY THEN, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE YOUR NAME.
CAPTAIN WORLD?
YOU'LL HAVE EARNED A PROMOTION BY THEN. ***GENERAL OVERVIEW.***
YOU BELIEVE IN OUR CAUSE. WE COULD USE YOU.
I'M TRYING TO KEEP MY INVOLVEMENT LOW-PROFILE, BUT...I'LL DO WHAT I CAN WHEN I CAN...
DAREDEVIL: COOPER PEYTON
CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRETT HENDRICK
COOPER PEYTON. AN ENGINEER FROM ***LONG ISLAND.***
THANKS FOR HANDING ME MY FIRST TARGET, NATE. ***DAREDEVIL.*** COOLIO.
"WHOSE SIDE AM I ON...?" AS IF I WOULDN'T KNOW...
LONG ISLAND? CRAP.
HOW'M I GONNA GET OUT THERE? CAB? STEAL A CAR?
TAKE THE L.I.E.? CROWDED AT RUSH HOUR.
COULD TAKE THE L.I.R.R. STOP AT HUNTINGTON...MAYBE TAKE A CAB AT THE TRAIN STATION... HMM...

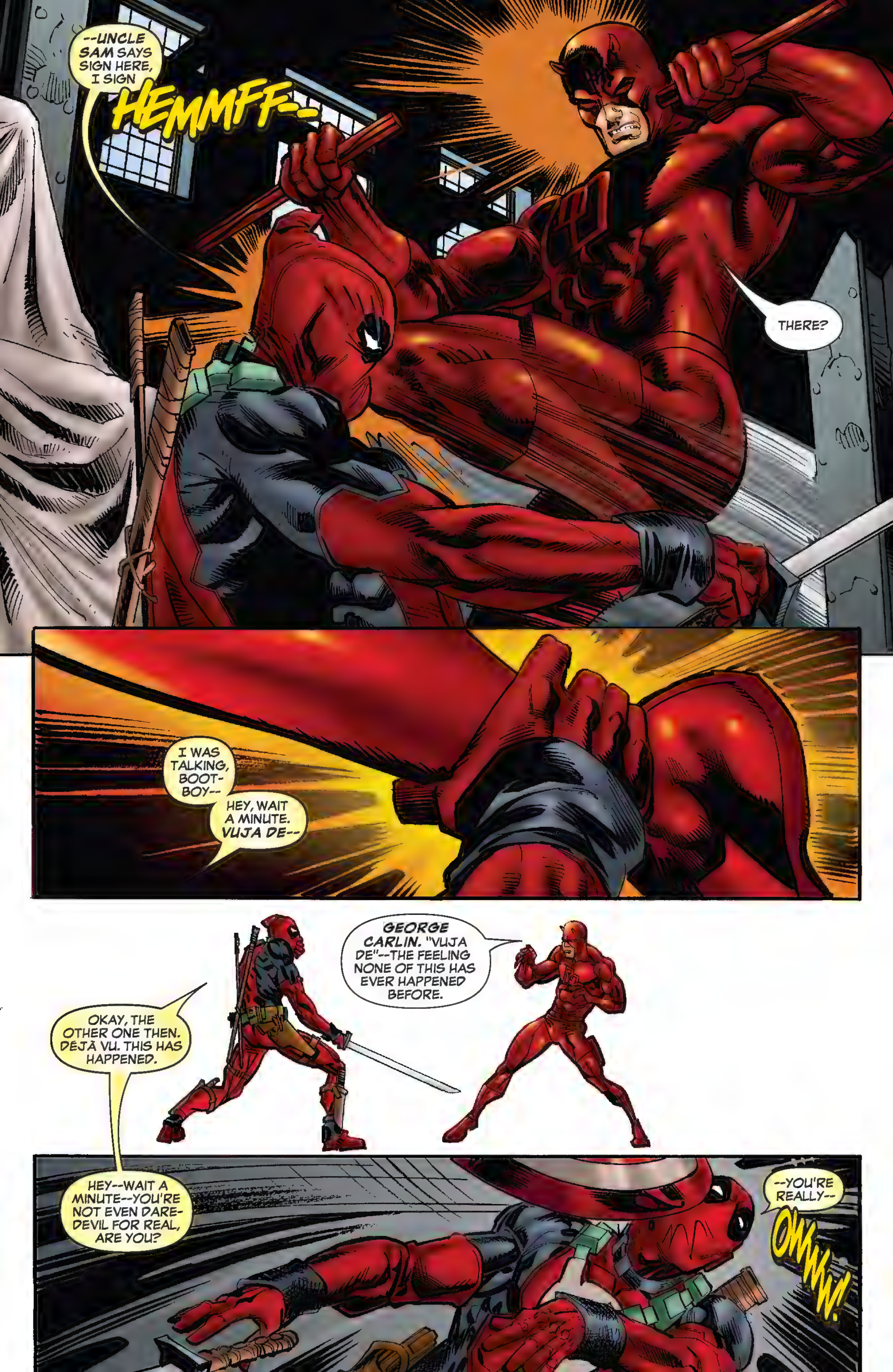

LONG ISLAND
MORNING
THIS IS WHERE DAREDEVIL DECIDES TO LIVE WHEN HE GETS A NEW SECRET I.D.? *UGH.*
OKAY, ENGINEERING JOB IS A FRONT.
WHAT'S HE COMING INTO THE CITY FOR UNLESS THIS IS THE SECRET MEETING PLACE OF THE RENEGADE HEROES?
I COULD TAKE THEM ALL OUT AT ONCE.
THAT WOULD GET ME MY OWN SOLO BOOK. OR BETTER, MY OWN *MOVIE.*
FIRST PERSON CAPTIONS ARE WORKING AGAIN.
Y'TALKIN' T'YOU'SELF, DUDE.
OKAY, MAYBE NOT.

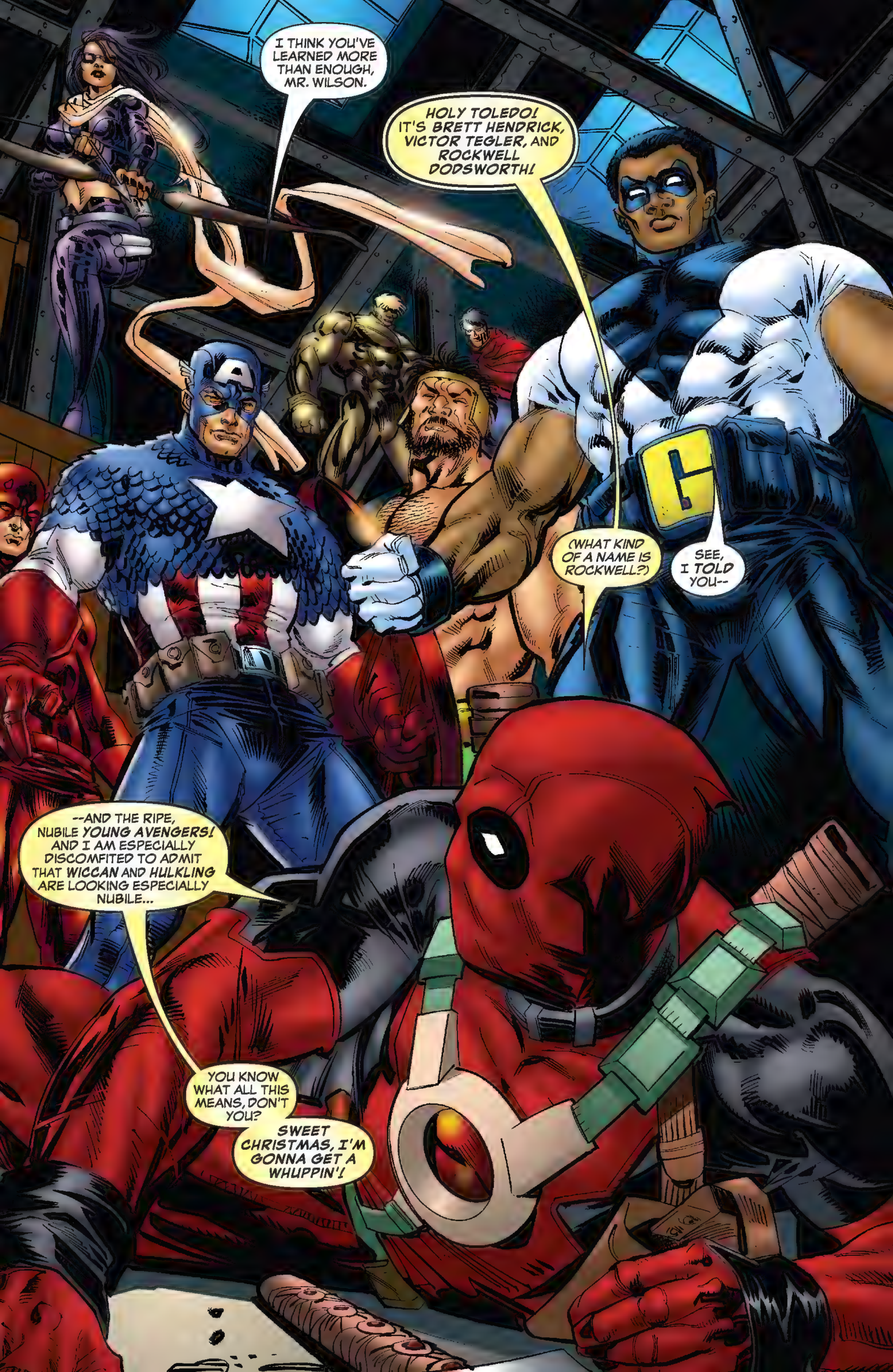

HOUSES IN LONG ISLAND, BEAT-UP WAREHOUSES AS THEIR HQ... HOW TOTALLY...*LOW-RENT.*
WHERE ARE THE *QUINJETS?* THE *PORTALS* TO THE *NEGATIVE ZONE?*
CALL ME *OLD SCHOOL,* BUT I LIKE MY SUPERTEAMS TO HAVE CRUNCHY WHOLESOME RIDICULOUS CONTRAPTIONS.
WILL AN OLD-FASHIONED *BILLY CLUB* DO?
THWAKK!
YEAH...LET'S CALL IT A GOOD START...
DAREDEVIL!


SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT WHEN I SMACK YOU WITH AN *INTERSPATIAL DISTORTER* THAT WILL TEMPORARILY PHASE YOUR BRAIN INTO *DIMENSION X!*
IT IS.
AH, BUT FOR A SECOND THERE, YOU WERE REALLY WORRIED!
THIS IS AN iPOD WITH A PIECE OF MASKING TAPE ATTACHED TO IT.
IDIOT.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? I THOUGHT CABLE WAS ON OUR SIDE?
OH, AND LIKE I'M ATTACHED TO CABLE LIKE A BABY TO ITS MOTHER'S TEAT?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
LORD, NO...


LISTEN, ME AN' CABLE ARE BUDS, BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO AGREE.
SO YOU THINK THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT IS ACCEPTABLE?
GOT NO SECRET I.D.
I WAS MILITARY, THEN A COVERT OPS. IT AIN'T ABOUT WHO YOU ARE, IT'S ABOUT WHAT YOU DO.
WHY CAN'T YOU DO WHAT YOU DO WITH EVERYONE KNOWING YOU'RE REALLY *COOPER PEYTON?*
WHY CAN'T I DO IT
WITHOUT PEOPLE
KNOWING THAT?


BECAUSE MOST OF YOU ARE WALKING ATOM BOMBS--NOT YOU, YOU'RE A HONG KONG FLICK FANCY-PAJAMA-BOY--
--BUT THE **REAL** THREATS, THE IRON MANS, THE THORS, THE SQUIRREL GIRLS--
--WHY SHOULDN'T JOE AND JOSEPHINE PUBLIC FEEL SAFE KNOWING WHO THEY ARE?
HOW DOES THAT MAKE THEM FEEL SAFE? **GALACTUS** COULD STILL STEP ON THEIR HOUSE TOMORROW!
OKAY, FINE, I'M NOT SAYING YOU DON'T HAVE AN ARGUMENT, OKAY--
--I'M SAYING EVEN THOUGH I MIGHT BE A PSYCHO KILLER MERC--
--WITH A RECORD LONGER THAN **STACIE KEIBLER'S** LEGS--


--UNCLE SAM SAYS SIGN HERE, I SIGN
HEMMFF--
THERE?
I WAS TALKING, BOOT-BOY--
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. VUJA DE--
GEORGE CARLIN. "VUJA DE"--THE FEELING NONE OF THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
OKAY, THE OTHER ONE THEN. DÉJÀ VU. THIS HAS HAPPENED.
HEY--WAIT A MINUTE--YOU'RE NOT EVEN DAREDEVIL FOR REAL, ARE YOU?
--YOU'RE REALLY--
OWWW!


I THINK YOU'VE LEARNED MORE THAN ENOUGH, MR. WILSON.
HOLY TOLEDO! IT'S BRETT HENDRICK, VICTOR TEGLER, AND ROCKWELL DODSWORTH!
(WHAT KIND OF A NAME IS ROCKWELL?)
SEE, I TOLD YOU--
--AND THE RIPE, NUBILE YOUNG AVENGERS! AND I AM ESPECIALLY DISCOMFITED TO ADMIT THAT WICCAN AND HULKLING ARE LOOKING ESPECIALLY NUBILE...
YOU KNOW WHAT ALL THIS MEANS, DON'T YOU?
SWEET CHRISTMAS, I'M GONNA GET A WHUPPIN'!

DEAR DEADPOOL

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I'm glad they let someone like you handle the letters page for this book. Editors are fine but sometimes a page needs the flair of a man like yourself.

Now I know this is a shared title and I'll get to that. I'd first like to say that I've been a fan of yours since Fabian first introduced you. Most of the time you were more popular to me than Cable or X-Force....except for Cannonball, no offense.

On to my reason for writing in. I've been getting Cable & Deadpool since issue 1 and never had doubts that it could survive, unlike a lot of people I know who still laugh at me for getting you and Nate. Two of the most popular characters in Marvel's X-universe together in a book and they thought it wouldn't sell. Rubbish.

All the arcs have been good. I especially liked the issues with you and Spidey and also Cage and Iron Fist. Your skill with weapons is only matched by your skill to banter while fighting. In that, you have Peter Parker beat by a million miles and I agree so totally that you and Irene would make a good couple. I've always thought she was just hanging onto Nate to get closer to you.

I look forward to future issues and more great guest stars and also more wonderful Deadpool moments. You and Nate take care.

Tammy Suto
Rayland,Ohio

Yeah, thanks a bunch, Tammy. You're a sweetie.

Deadpool,

I'll cut to the chase:

1) Why haven't you kicked Wolverine's a@@ yet?

4) You realize that the "fourth wall" really isn't a wall, right?

B) When is the comic changing from "Cable & Deadpool" to "Deadpool & Irene"? No one really wants to see Nathan Dayspring Geshundheit anyways ...

2) When are you getting your own television show? You can have Bea Arthur guest star from time to time y'know. It'd be better than "Lost" or even "the A-Team".

5) What do you use to get the bloodstains out of your clothing? I've had a problem with ... I mean, I've heard this can be difficult to do.

3) There's a clown behind you.

Jason

Oooh, numbered questions! Jason, you put me in a good mood! What's with the one name thing? What're you, Pelé or Cher or something?

1) Good question. It's probably because he sells about 200 bazillion copies of all eighty of his combined books but I only sell like a measly seventeen copies a month. Oh, wait, Civil War tie-in. Nicole said we sold twenty-five copies this month. Woo-Hoo.

4) You do realize that jumbo shrimp are still relatively small, right?

B) "Deadpool & Irene." I can work with that. I could probably work a bit better with "Deadpool & Rachel McAdams." Or "Deadpool & Halle Berry," Or... dare I even wish it?... "Deadpool & Bea."

2) Television executives of the world, are you listening? Hello...?

5) Oh, piece of cake. Try some Clorox Color Bleach directly on the stain. Let it sit overnight before washing in a Heavy Cycle. Then throw the clothes out, preferably in a plastic bag with urine and cow blood in it to befuddle the DNA experts, and get yourself some new clothes.

3) Hey, wait a minute – your questions are all out of order and some of them aren't even NUMBERS! And I just noticed it now! GRAAAAAGH!!! Jason got me!

Dear Deady,

I have been a fan of Marvel for many years but have only just discovered your existence (Well I knew you were there but I never really KNEW you were there, if you know what I mean). First of I would like to say you are so funny, I mean I thought Spider-Man was good but he's just a rambling arachnid compared to your levels of funniness and the whole ignoring-the-fourth-wall thing you do is great.

Anyway I also noticed you like number questions (what with the "oooh number questions" thing you do) so I have a few for you to answer:

1) Is it OK that I called you Deady?

2) I read on the Marvel official site that your real name is Jack and not Wade T. Wilson, is this true?

3) If your real name is Jack then what's your full name because all it said for that was "full name not revealed"?

4) Did them drugs that gave you a healing factor really send you insane or is that what you want everyone to think?

5) When were you a sumo wrestler?

6) What's the best/funniest book you've ever been in?

That's about it for now, so until then make mine Deadpool.

[Judging by the e-mail address, this letter is from Joshua Shepard.]

Well, there ya go. A letter from someone who doesn't even include their name, which is a No-No – or at least it used to be back in the day when men were men and publishers smoked big stogies and drank whiskey.

Ooooh, numbered questions!

1) No.

2) No.

3) My name is Wade Wilson. It always has been. Anything else is just a figment of someone else's imagination.

4) Don't ask, don't tell.

5) In a very good dream.

6) Any issues written by Joe Kelly or Gail Simone.

Dear Deadpool,

I regret to inform you that after reading all twenty-eight issues (as of May 17) of your wonderful series I still do not know what a Chimichanga is.

Regretfully Yours,
Dannyboy

Yeah, Dannyboy, you probably think Pizza, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs are All-American foods, too, huh? It's a great big world out there, Dannyboy. Just look south of the border at a little country called Mexico... all kinds of glorious foods made with fried dough and cheese to be discovered...

Dear Deadpool,

This is a group email from three people (from Comic Utopia in Lansing, Michigan) who are loyal fans of your wit and mayhem. We were really hoping you could help us out with something. We acknowledge that this isn't really your thing, but we had to ask someone who cares. We tried writing the Marvel Editors, but we know that they don't care. They don't care the way that you care, Deadpool. We have been dutifully buying all of these crazy X-Books that are coming out. (Which some of us are bitter about.) What we were sort of hoping was that you could maybe talk to Wolverine for us. You see, our concern is that in the wake of Decimation (during which Jubille lost her mutant powers), Wolverine never even stopped to pick up a phone and make sure she was okay. Could you ask him to check up on her please? Or maybe just beat him up and down the block a few times until he gets the point. I know it is sort of asking a lot. I imagine you'll be busy hunting down fugitives and joining X-Factor and whatever else is going on. If you don't have time to talk to him (or pop a can of whoop-a@@), could you at least ask Fabian to include a panel, somewhere, of Wolverine calling Jubilee to ask if she's okay. I know it is a little neurotic, but the three of us are really upset that Logan won't even check up on Jubilee. Seriously! Cable would call you up if you lost your powers! I think. Okay, maybe not. He would, at least, send flowers!

Last thing, we wanted to give kudos to Reilly Brown. He did a super nice job drawing you in issue 28. All kinds of fun, all around. It was sad to see Zircher go, but Brown was a pleasant surprise. Thanks.

Your Adoring Fans From Comic Utopia
Holt, Michigan

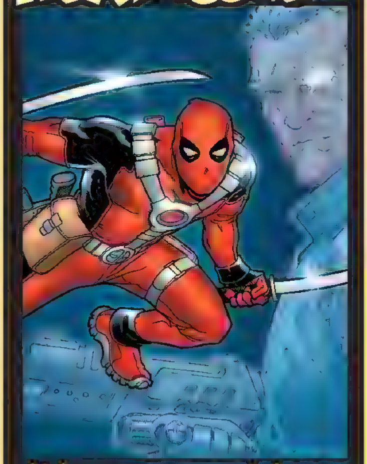
Decimation? What the heck are you talking about? You expect me to keep track of X-crossovers? What're you, polluted? What're they feeding you up in Holt, Crazy Juice or something?

Jubilee lost her powers, huh? Maybe if ol' Wolvie is too busy in eighty titles to give her a call, Uncle Wade should ring her up... you know, just to console the kid and all. What were her powers anyway? She farted fireworks or something? Let me check my Blackberry, see if I got her listed...

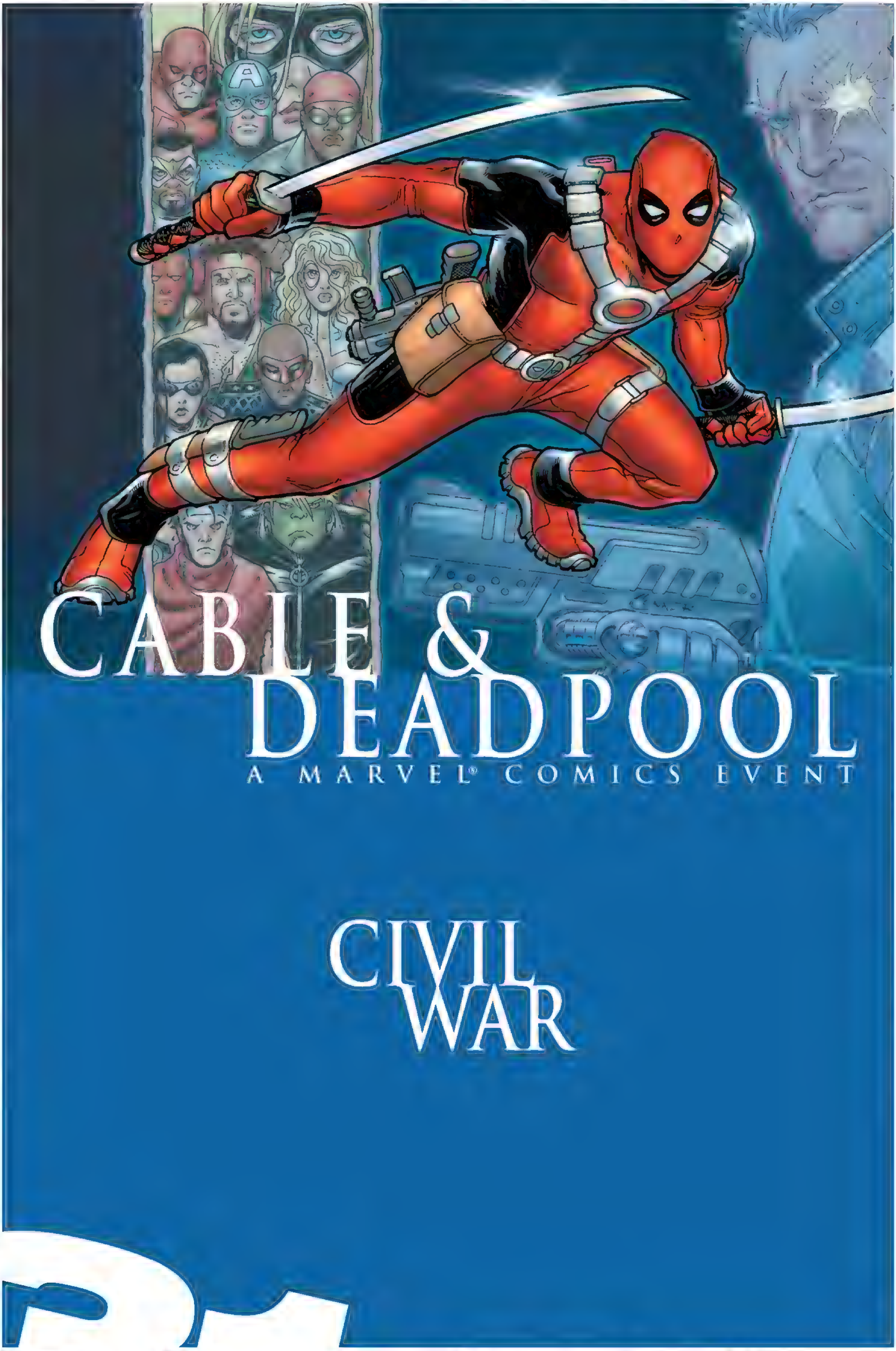
I miss Patrick, too, but he's doing a bang-up job drawing Iron Man monthly.

Oh, and Reilly did a bang-up job too, didn't he? He actually listened when I told him about all the reminders I need to write on my weapons to make sure I use `em right. He'll be drawing me again in issue #33.

NEXT ISSUE:



I take on more renegade heroes and face off against my own pal Cable! Whose butt will be kicked first? Find out in the second of three CIVIL WAR issues, penciled by Snazzy Staz Johnson, inked by Klaus "in da house" Janson, and with a cover by Ace Amanda Conner!

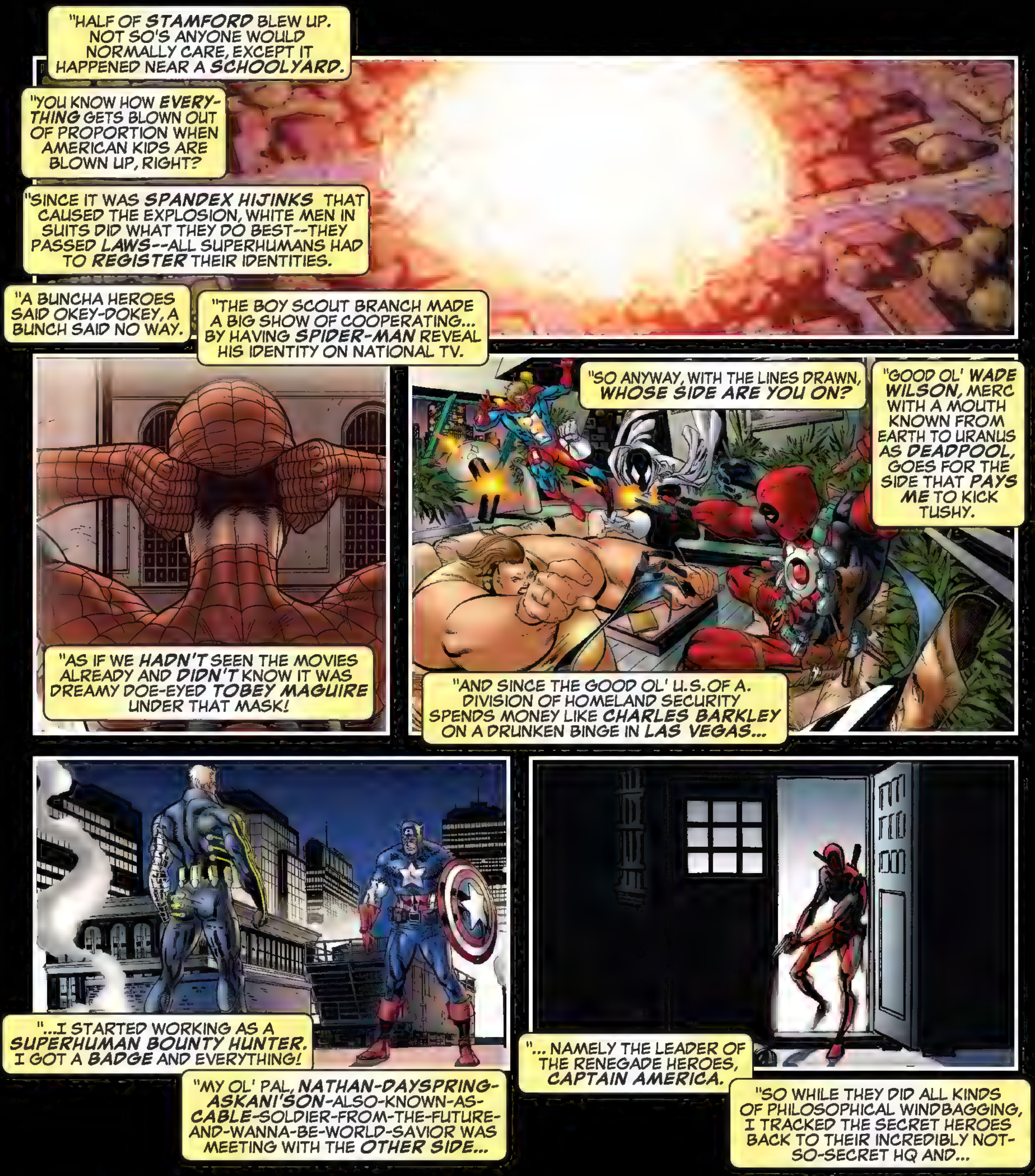


CABLE & DEADPOOL

A MARVEL® COMICS EVENT

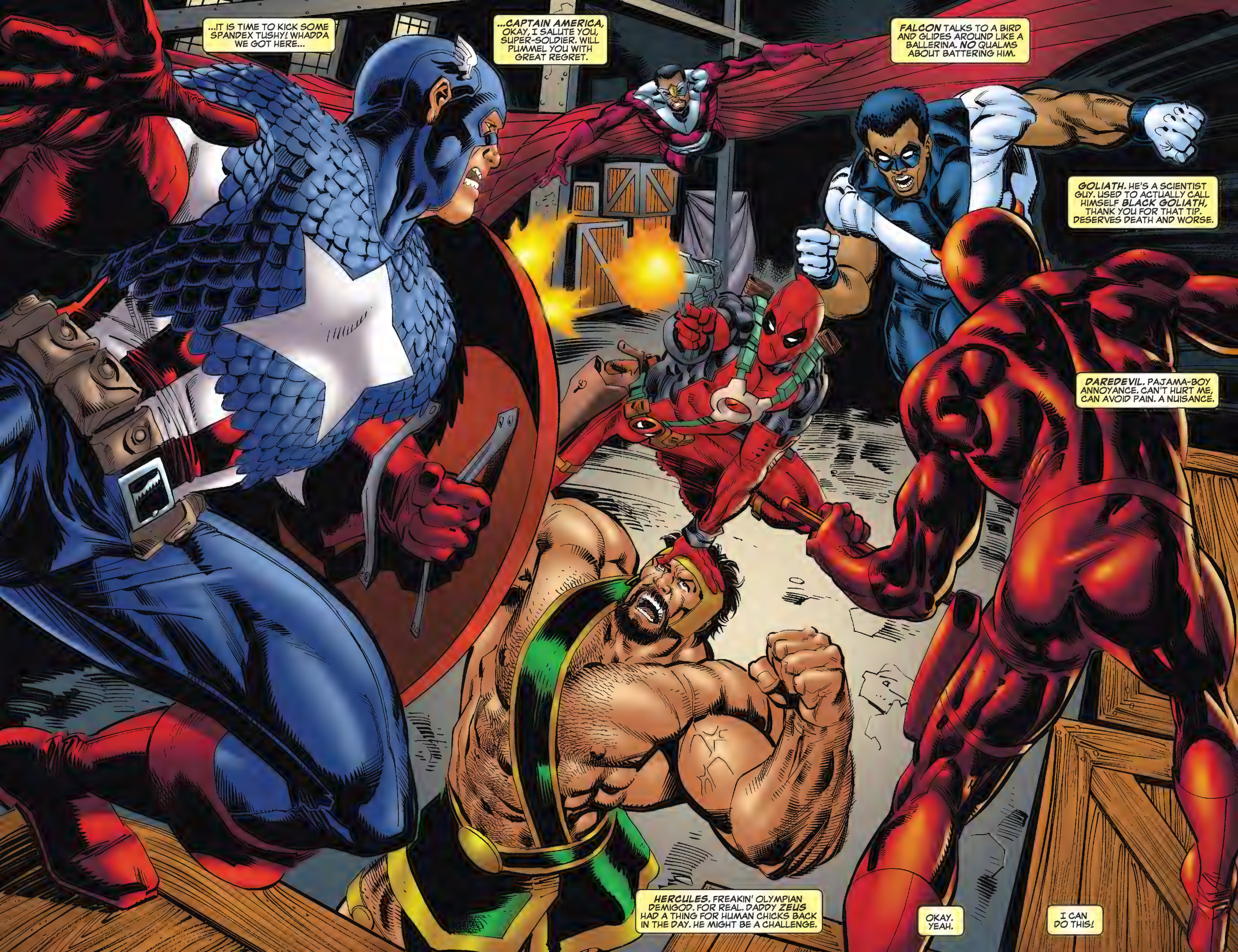
CIVIL WAR

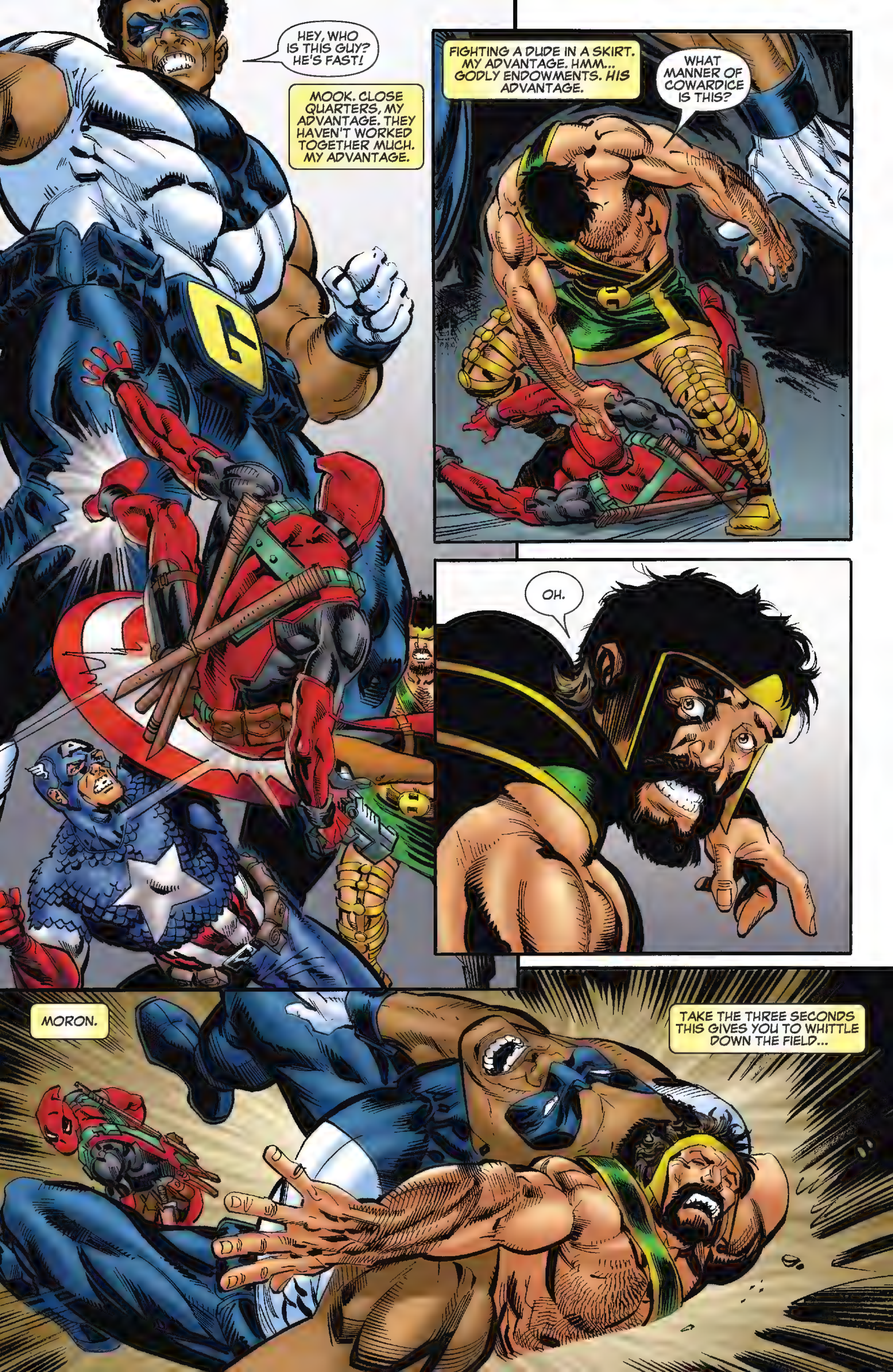
31

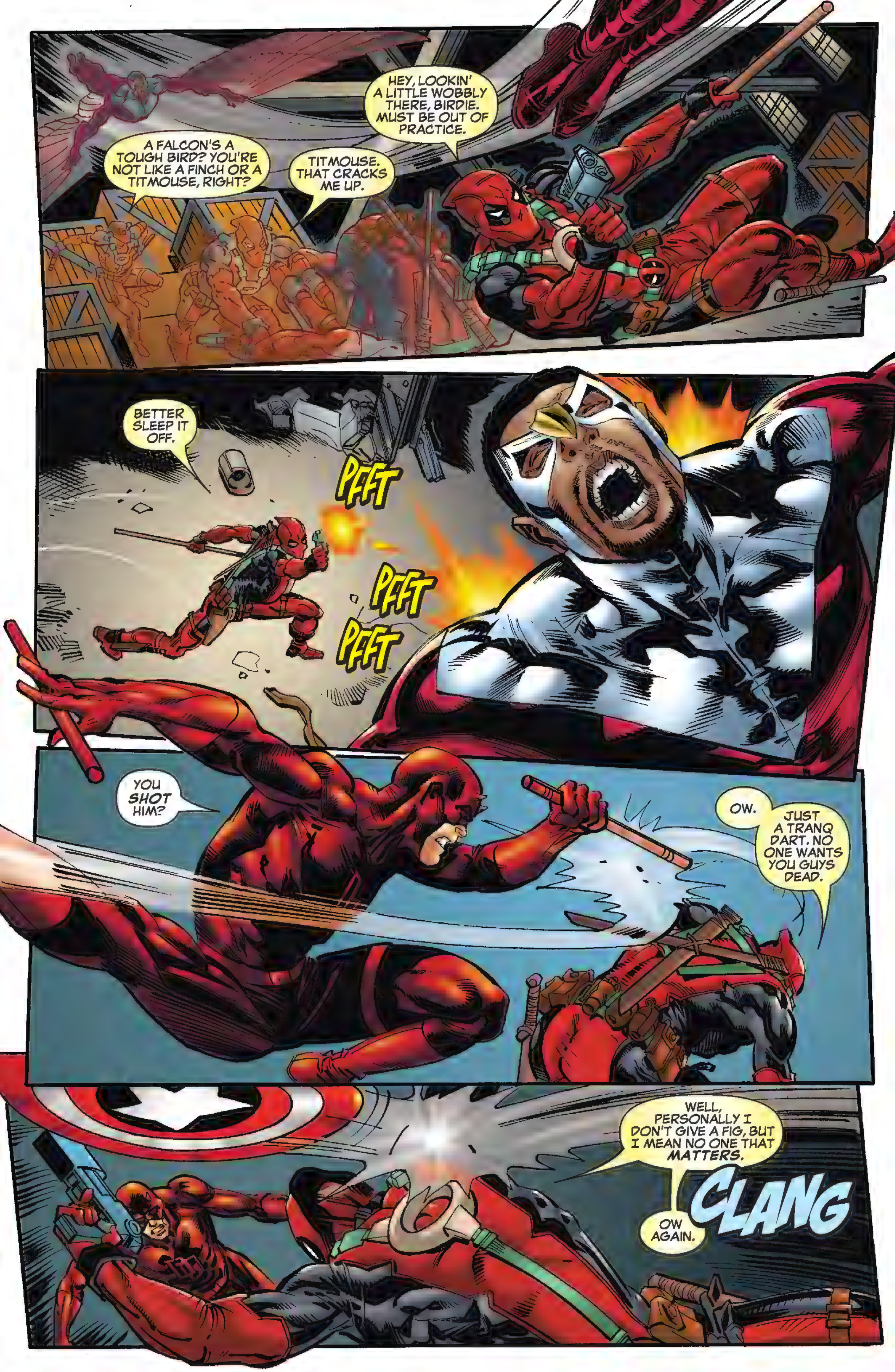

"HALF OF STAMFORD BLEW UP. NOT SO'S ANYONE WOULD NORMALLY CARE, EXCEPT IT HAPPENED NEAR A SCHOOLYARD.
"YOU KNOW HOW EVERYTHING GETS BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION WHEN AMERICAN KIDS ARE BLOWN UP, RIGHT?
"SINCE IT WAS SPANDEX HIJINKS THAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION, WHITE MEN IN SUITS DID WHAT THEY DO BEST--THEY PASSED LAWS--ALL SUPERHUMANS HAD TO REGISTER THEIR IDENTITIES.
"A BUNCHA HEROES SAID OKEY-DOKEY, A BUNCH SAID NO WAY.
"THE BOY SCOUT BRANCH MADE A BIG SHOW OF COOPERATING... BY HAVING SPIDER-MAN REVEAL HIS IDENTITY ON NATIONAL TV.
"AS IF WE HADN'T SEEN THE MOVIES ALREADY AND DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS DREAMY DOE-EYED TOBEY MAGUIRE UNDER THAT MASK!
"SO ANYWAY, WITH THE LINES DRAWN, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
"GOOD OL' WADE WILSON, MERC WITH A MOUTH KNOWN FROM EARTH TO URANUS AS DEADPOOL, GOES FOR THE SIDE THAT PAYS ME TO KICK TUSHY.
"AND SINCE THE GOOD OL' U.S. OF A. DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY SPENDS MONEY LIKE CHARLES BARKLEY ON A DRUNKEN BINGE IN LAS VEGAS...
"...I STARTED WORKING AS A SUPERHUMAN BOUNTY HUNTER. I GOT A BADGE AND EVERYTHING!
"MY OL' PAL, NATHAN-DAYSPRING-ASKANI'SON-ALSO-KNOWN-AS-CABLE-SOLDIER-FROM-THE-FUTURE-AND-WANNA-BE-WORLD-SAVIOR WAS MEETING WITH THE OTHER SIDE...
"... NAMELY THE LEADER OF THE RENEGADE HEROES, CAPTAIN AMERICA.
"SO WHILE THEY DID ALL KINDS OF PHILOSOPHICAL WINDBAGGING, I TRACKED THE SECRET HEROES BACK TO THEIR INCREDIBLY NOT-SO-SECRET HQ AND...

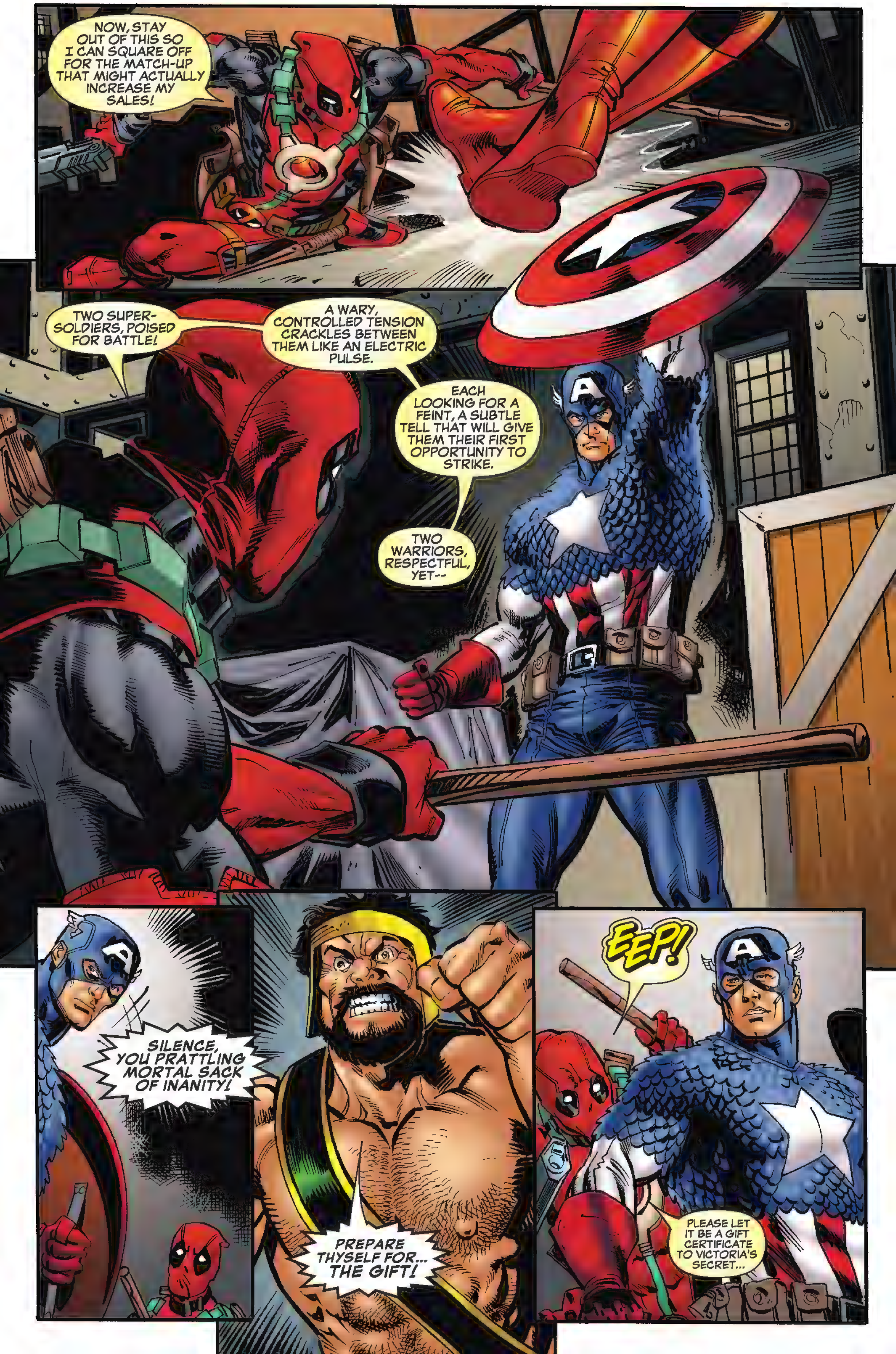
CASUALTIES OF WAR

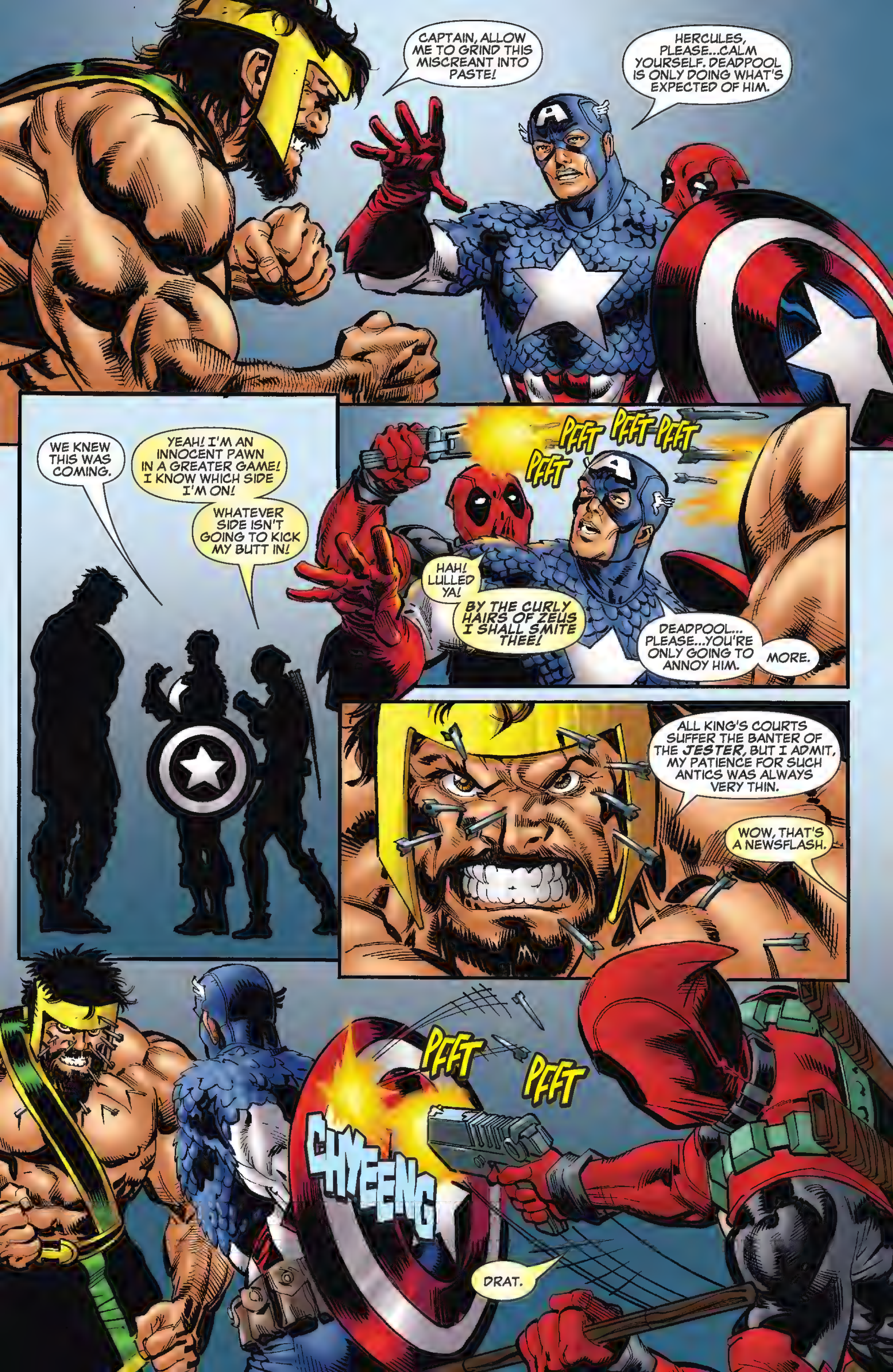
A MARVEL CIVIL WAR TIE-IN

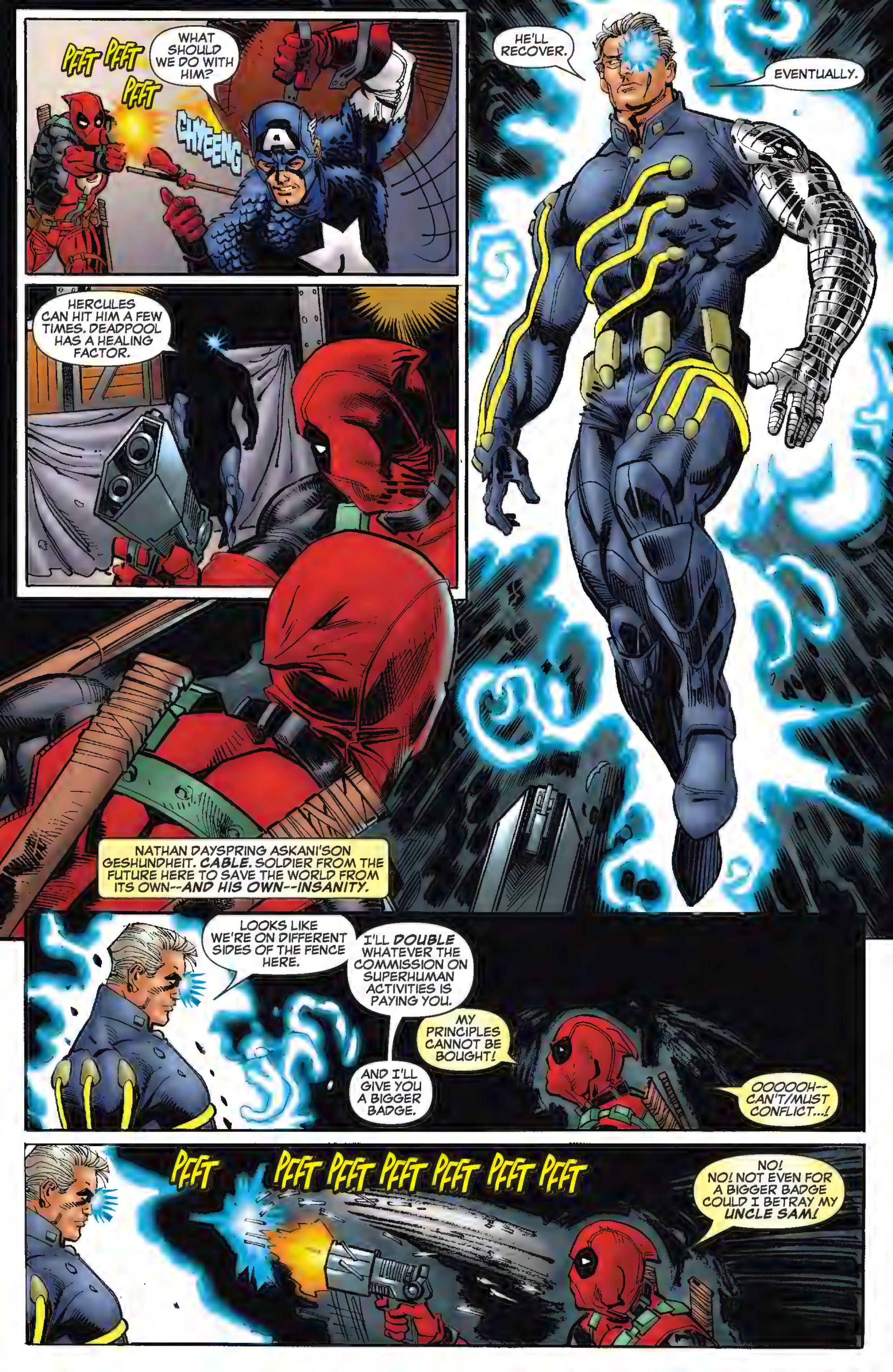

...IT IS TIME TO KICK SOME SPANDEX TUSHY! WHADDA WE GOT HERE...
...CAPTAIN AMERICA, OKAY, I SALUTE YOU, SUPER-SOLDIER. WILL PUMMEL YOU WITH GREAT REGRET.
FALCON TALKS TO A BIRD AND GLIDES AROUND LIKE A BALLERINA. NO QUALMS ABOUT BATTERING HIM.
GOLIATH. HE'S A SCIENTIST GUY. USED TO ACTUALLY CALL HIMSELF BLACK GOLIATH, THANK YOU FOR THAT TIP. DESERVES DEATH AND WORSE.
DAREDEVIL. PAJAMA-BOY ANNOYANCE. CAN'T HURT ME, CAN AVOID PAIN. A NUISANCE.
HERCULES. FREAKIN' OLYMPIAN DEMIGOD. FOR REAL. DADDY ZEUS HAD A THING FOR HUMAN CHICKS BACK IN THE DAY. HE MIGHT BE A CHALLENGE.
OKAY. YEAH.
I CAN DO THIS!

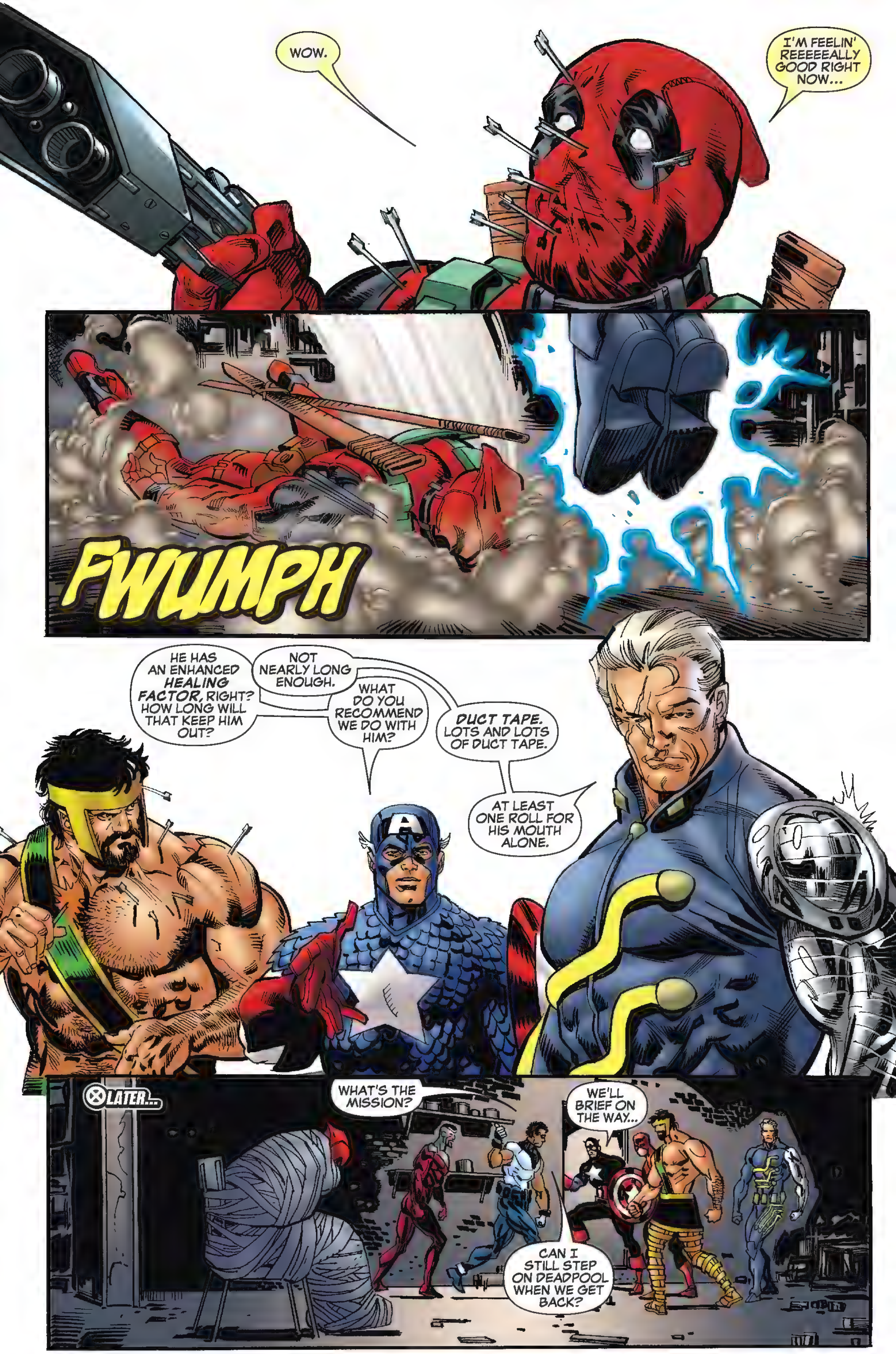

HEY, WHO IS THIS GUY? HE'S FAST!
MOOK. CLOSE QUARTERS, MY ADVANTAGE. THEY HAVEN'T WORKED TOGETHER MUCH. MY ADVANTAGE.
FIGHTING A DUDE IN A SKIRT. MY ADVANTAGE. HMM... GODLY ENDOWMENTS. *HIS* ADVANTAGE.
WHAT MANNER OF COWARDICE IS THIS?
OH.
MORON.
TAKE THE THREE SECONDS THIS GIVES YOU TO WHITTLE DOWN THE FIELD...

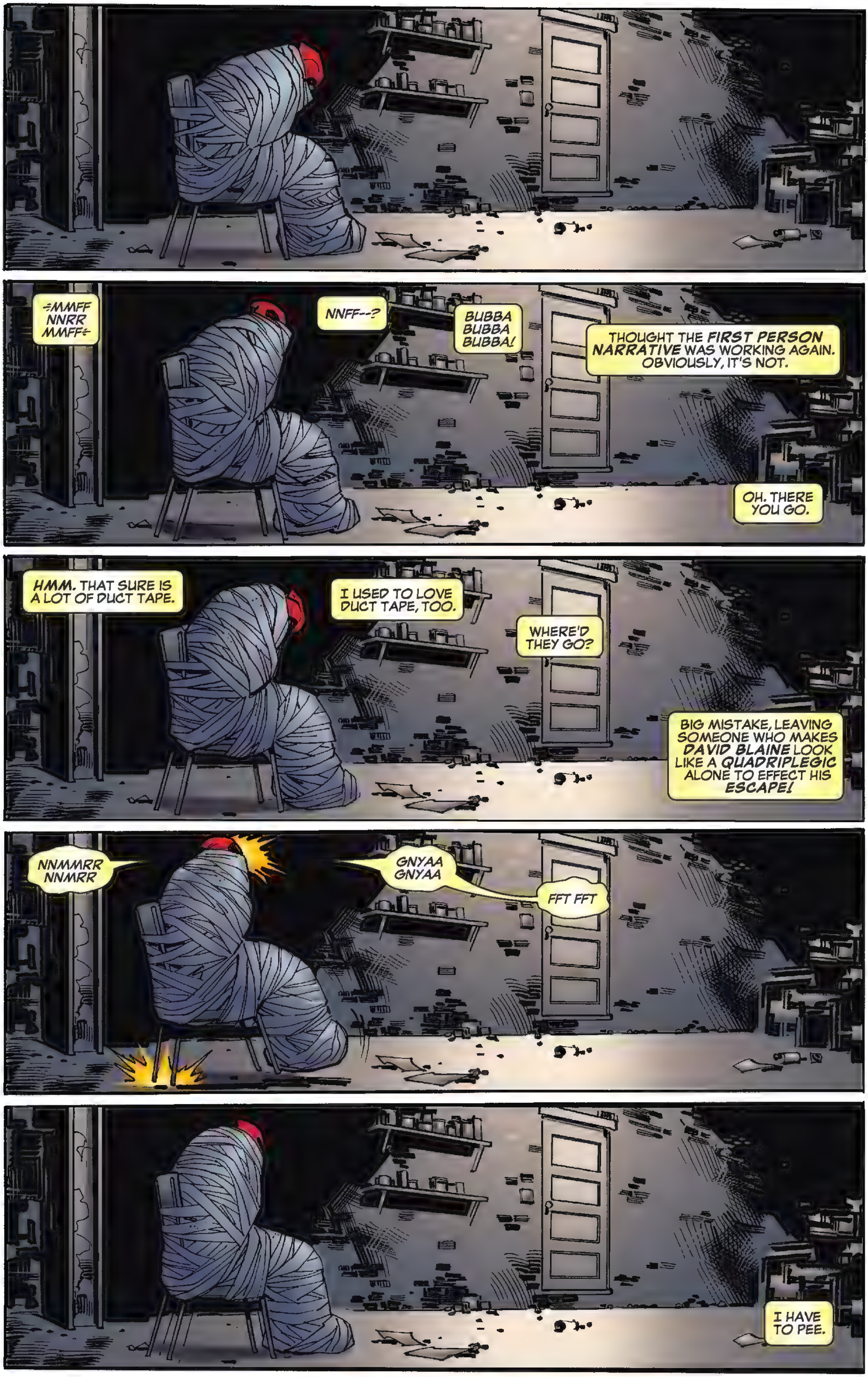

HEY, LOOKIN' A LITTLE WOBBLY THERE, BIRDIE. MUST BE OUT OF PRACTICE.
A FALCON'S A TOUGH BIRD? YOU'RE NOT LIKE A FINCH OR A TITMOUSE, RIGHT?
TITMOUSE. THAT CRACKS ME UP.
BETTER SLEEP IT OFF.
PFFT
PFFT
PFFT
YOU SHOT HIM?
OW.
JUST A TRANQ DART. NO ONE WANTS YOU GUYS DEAD.
WELL, PERSONALLY I DON'T GIVE A FIG, BUT I MEAN NO ONE THAT MATTERS.
CLANG
OW AGAIN.

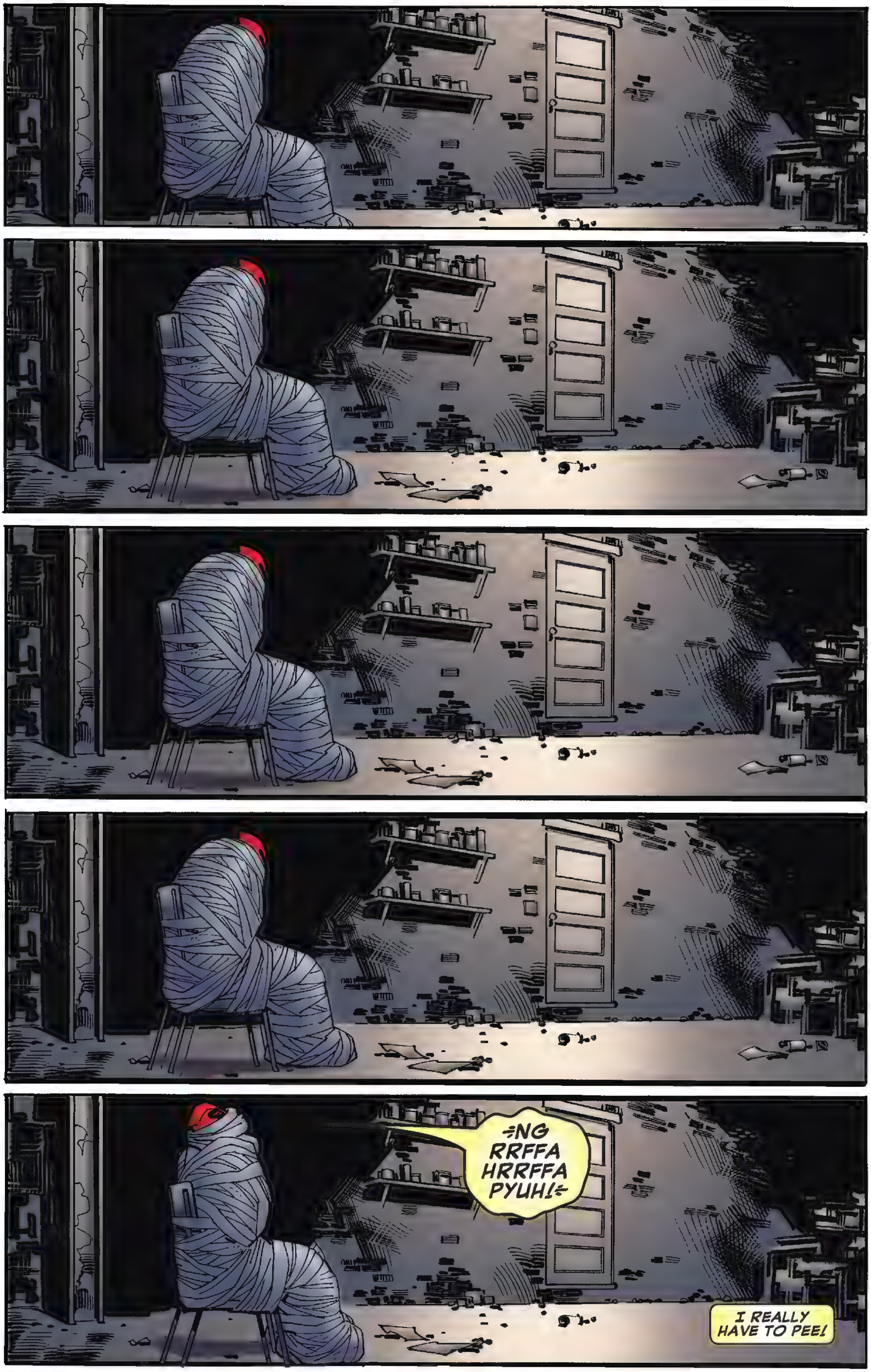

NOW, STAY OUT OF THIS SO I CAN SQUARE OFF FOR THE MATCH-UP THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY INCREASE MY SALES!
TWO SUPER-SOLDIERS, POISED FOR BATTLE!
A WARY, CONTROLLED TENSION CRACKLES BETWEEN THEM LIKE AN ELECTRIC PULSE.
EACH LOOKING FOR A FEINT, A SUBTLE TELL THAT WILL GIVE THEM THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.
TWO WARRIORS, RESPECTFUL, YET--
SILENCE, YOU PRATTLING MORTAL SACK OF INANITY!
PREPARE THYSELF FOR... THE GIFT!
EEP!
PLEASE LET IT BE A GIFT CERTIFICATE TO VICTORIA'S SECRET...

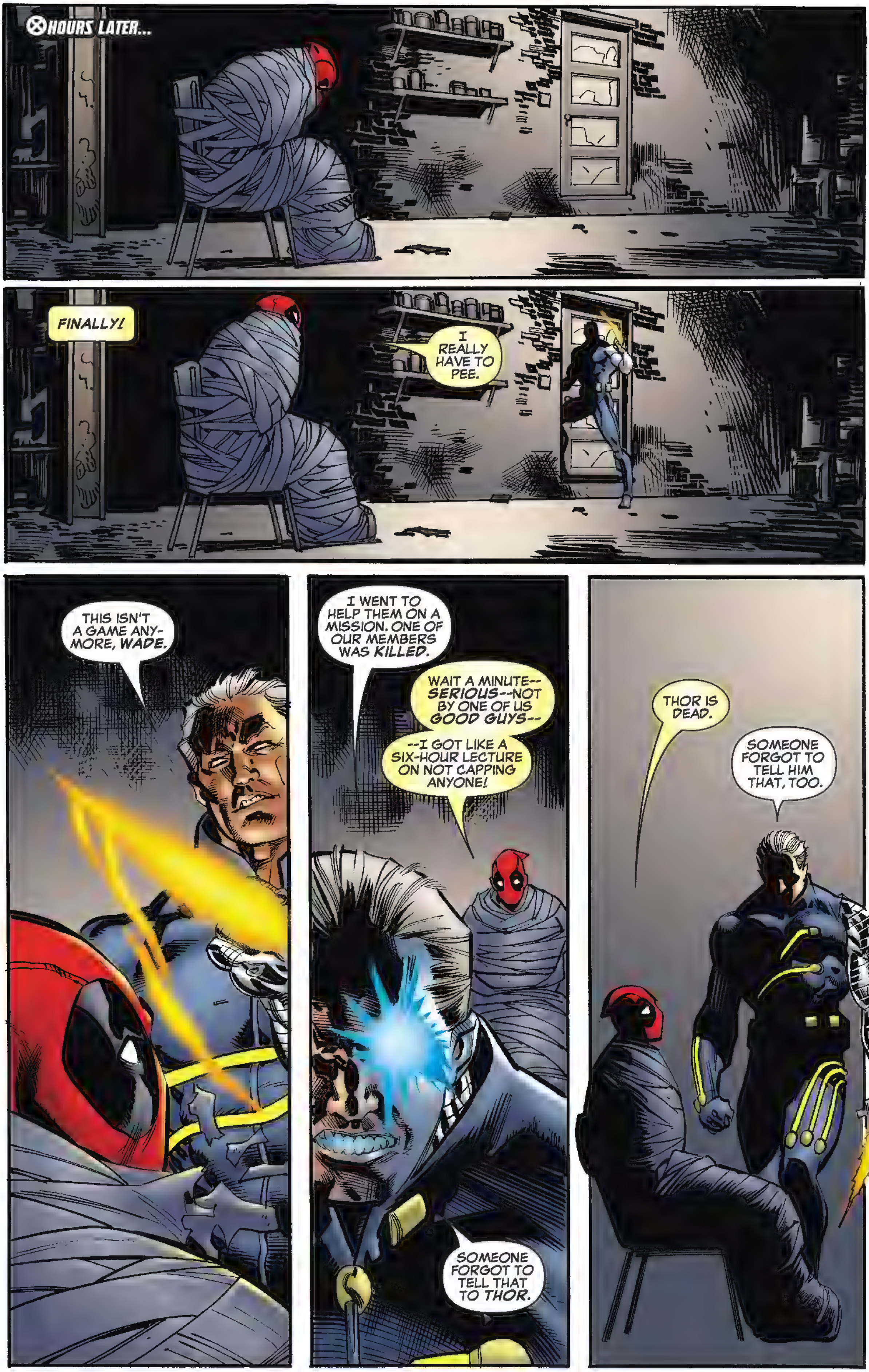

CAPTAIN, ALLOW ME TO GRIND THIS MISCREANT INTO PASTE!
HERCULES, PLEASE...CALM YOURSELF. DEADPOOL IS ONLY DOING WHAT'S EXPECTED OF HIM.
WE KNEW THIS WAS COMING.
YEAH! I'M AN INNOCENT PAWN IN A GREATER GAME! I KNOW WHICH SIDE I'M ON!
WHATEVER SIDE ISN'T GOING TO KICK MY BUTT IN!
PFFT PFFT PFFT PFFT
HAH! LULLED YA!
BY THE CURLY HAIRS OF ZEUS I SHALL SMITE THEE!
DEADPOOL... PLEASE...YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO ANNOY HIM.
MORE.
ALL KING'S COURTS SUFFER THE BANTER OF THE JESTER, BUT I ADMIT, MY PATIENCE FOR SUCH ANTICS WAS ALWAYS VERY THIN.
WOW, THAT'S A NEWSFLASH.
PFFT
PFFT
CHYEENG
DRAT.

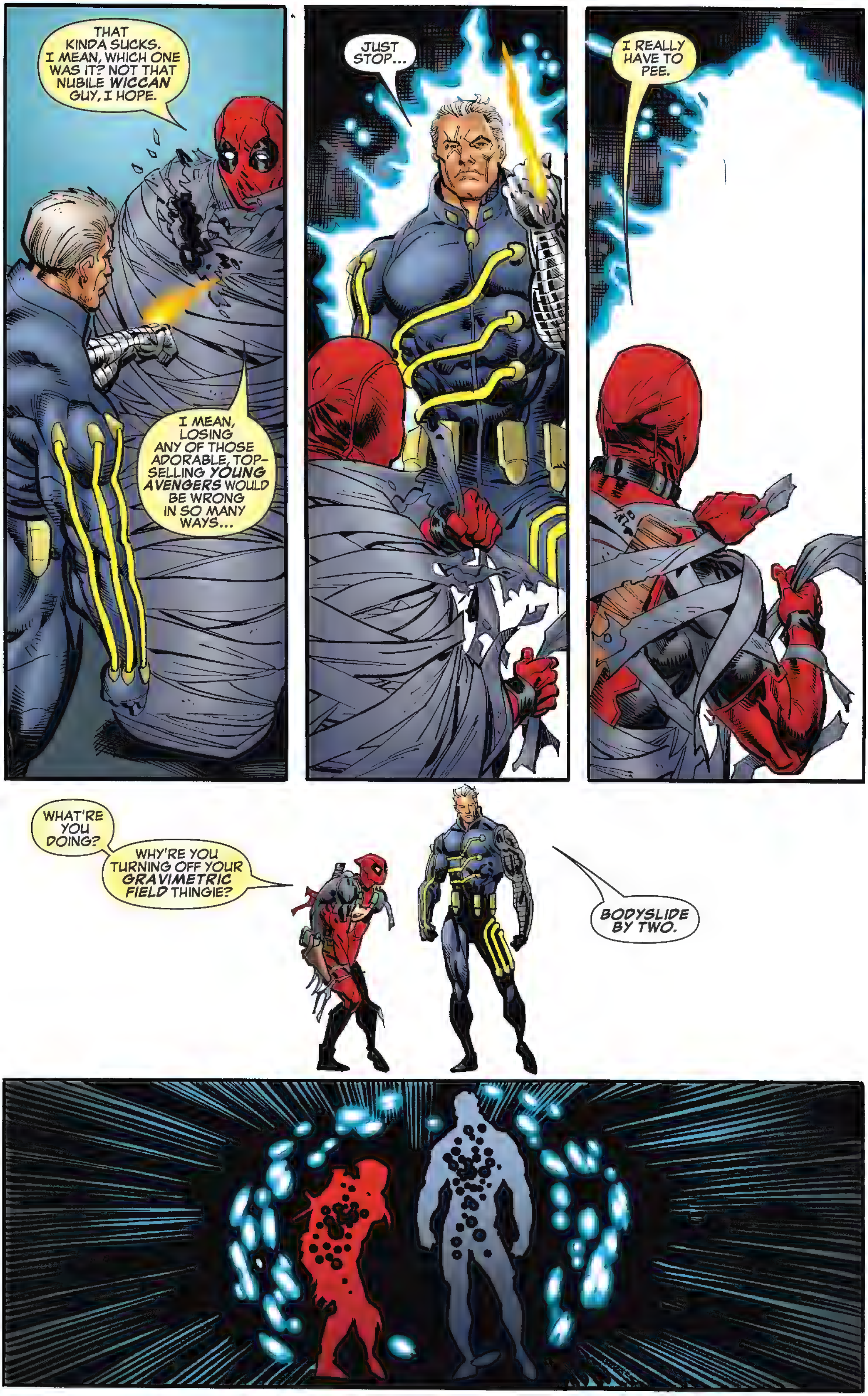

PFFT PFFT PFFT
CHYEENG
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM?
HERCULES CAN HIT HIM A FEW TIMES. DEADPOOL HAS A HEALING FACTOR.
HE'LL RECOVER.
EVENTUALLY.
NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON GESHUNDHEIT. **CABLE.** SOLDIER FROM THE FUTURE HERE TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM ITS OWN--***AND HIS OWN--INSANITY.***
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ON DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE FENCE HERE.
I'LL ***DOUBLE*** WHATEVER THE COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES IS PAYING YOU.
MY PRINCIPLES CANNOT BE BOUGHT!
AND I'LL GIVE YOU A BIGGER BADGE.
OOOOOH--CAN'T/MUST CONFLICT...!
PFFT PFFT PFFT PFFT PFFT PFFT PFFT
NO! NO! NOT EVEN FOR A BIGGER BADGE COULD I BETRAY MY ***UNCLE SAM!***

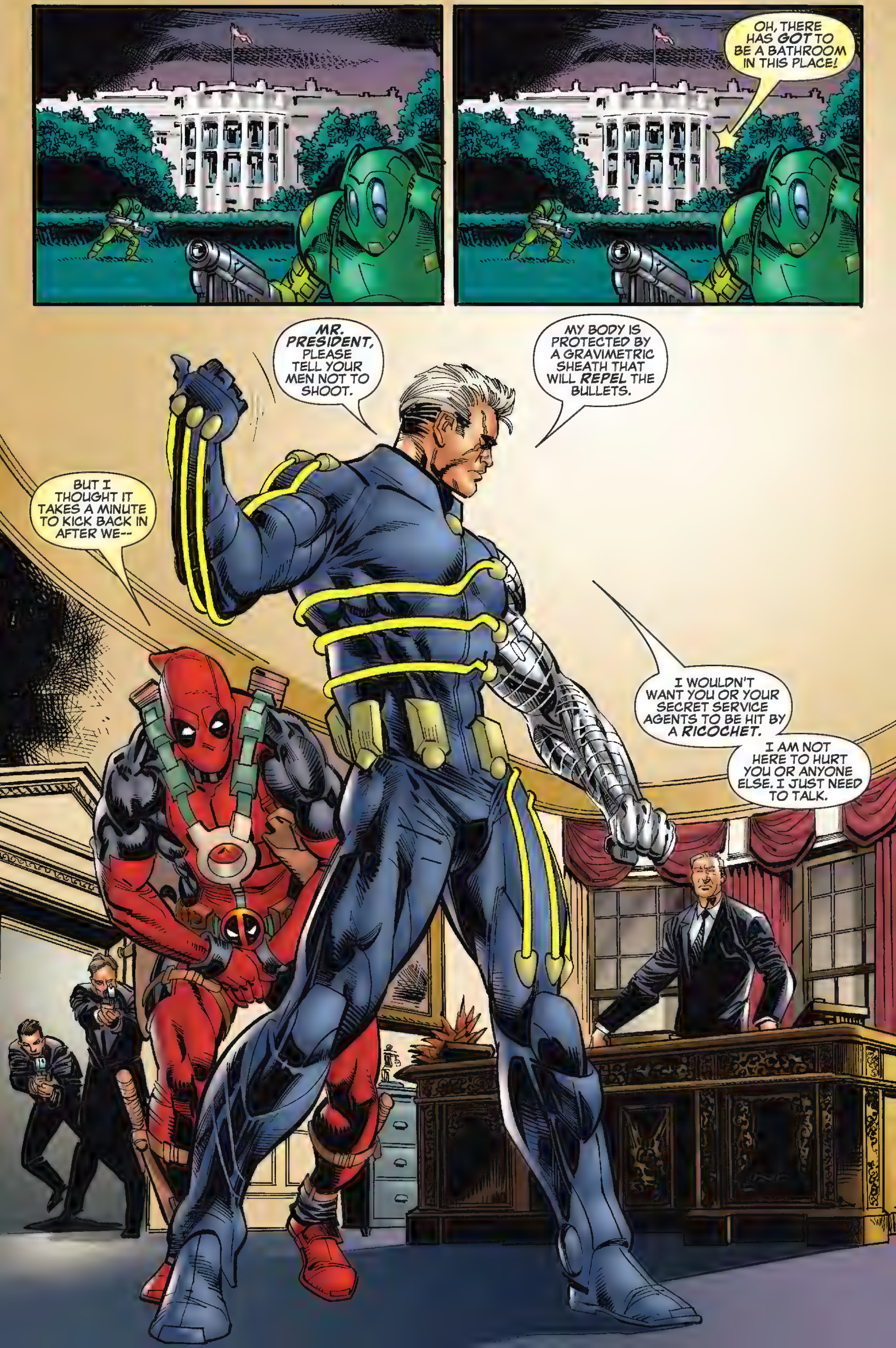

WOW.
I'M FEELIN' REEEEEALLY GOOD RIGHT NOW...
FWUMPH
HE HAS AN ENHANCED HEALING FACTOR, RIGHT? HOW LONG WILL THAT KEEP HIM OUT?
NOT NEARLY LONG ENOUGH.
WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND WE DO WITH HIM?
DUCT TAPE. LOTS AND LOTS OF DUCT TAPE.
AT LEAST ONE ROLL FOR HIS MOUTH ALONE.
LATER...
WHAT'S THE MISSION?
WE'LL BRIEF ON THE WAY...
CAN I STILL STEP ON DEADPOOL WHEN WE GET BACK?

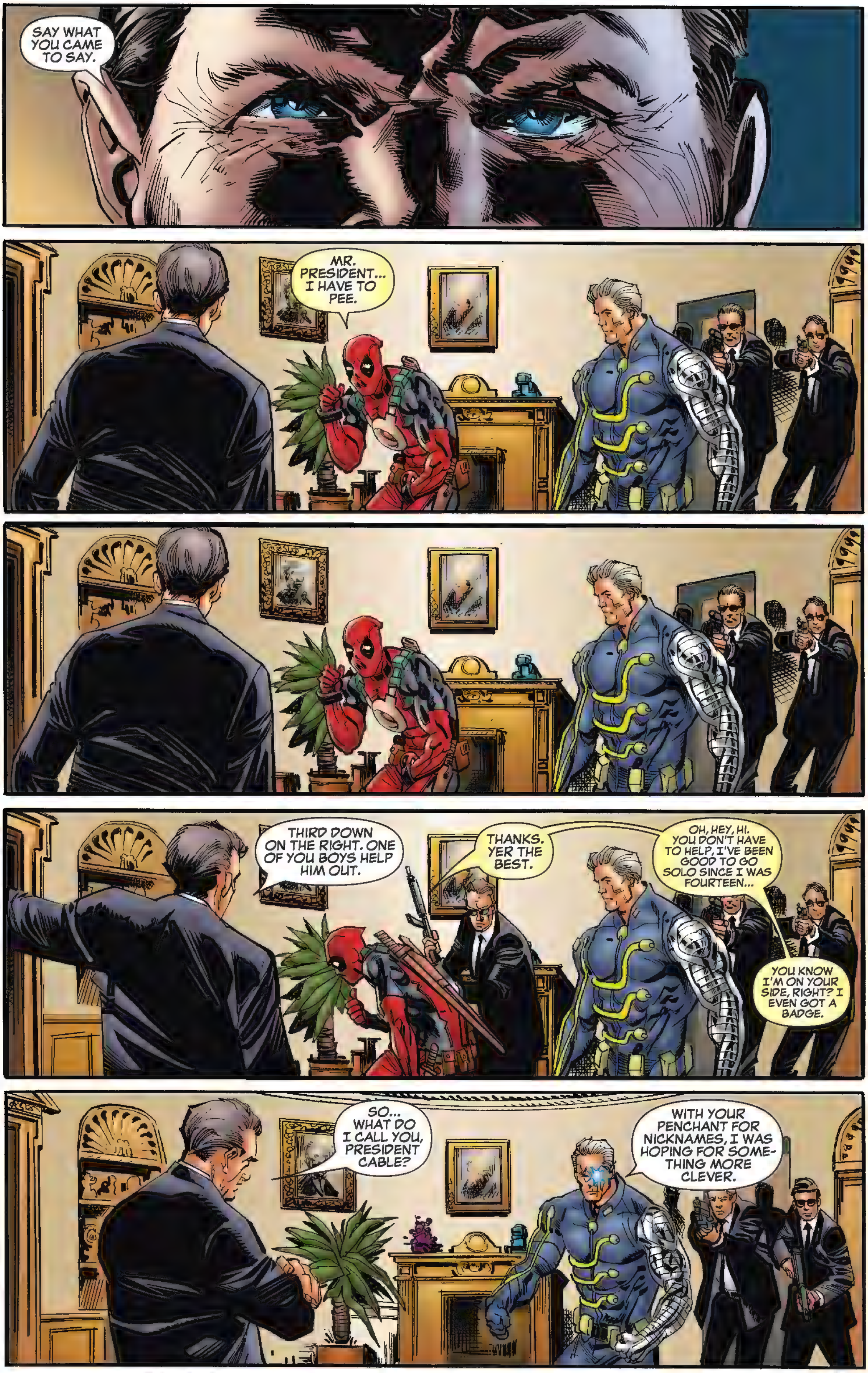

=MMFF NNRR MMFF=
NNFF--?
BUBBA BUBBA BUBBA!
THOUGHT THE **FIRST PERSON NARRATIVE** WAS WORKING AGAIN. OBVIOUSLY, IT'S NOT.
OH. THERE YOU GO.
HMM. THAT SURE IS A LOT OF DUCT TAPE.
I USED TO LOVE DUCT TAPE, TOO.
WHERE'D THEY GO?
BIG MISTAKE, LEAVING SOMEONE WHO MAKES **DAVID BLAINE** LOOK LIKE A **QUADRIPLEGIC** ALONE TO EFFECT HIS **ESCAPE!**
NNMMRR NNMRR
GNYAA GNYAA
FFT FFT
I HAVE TO PEE.

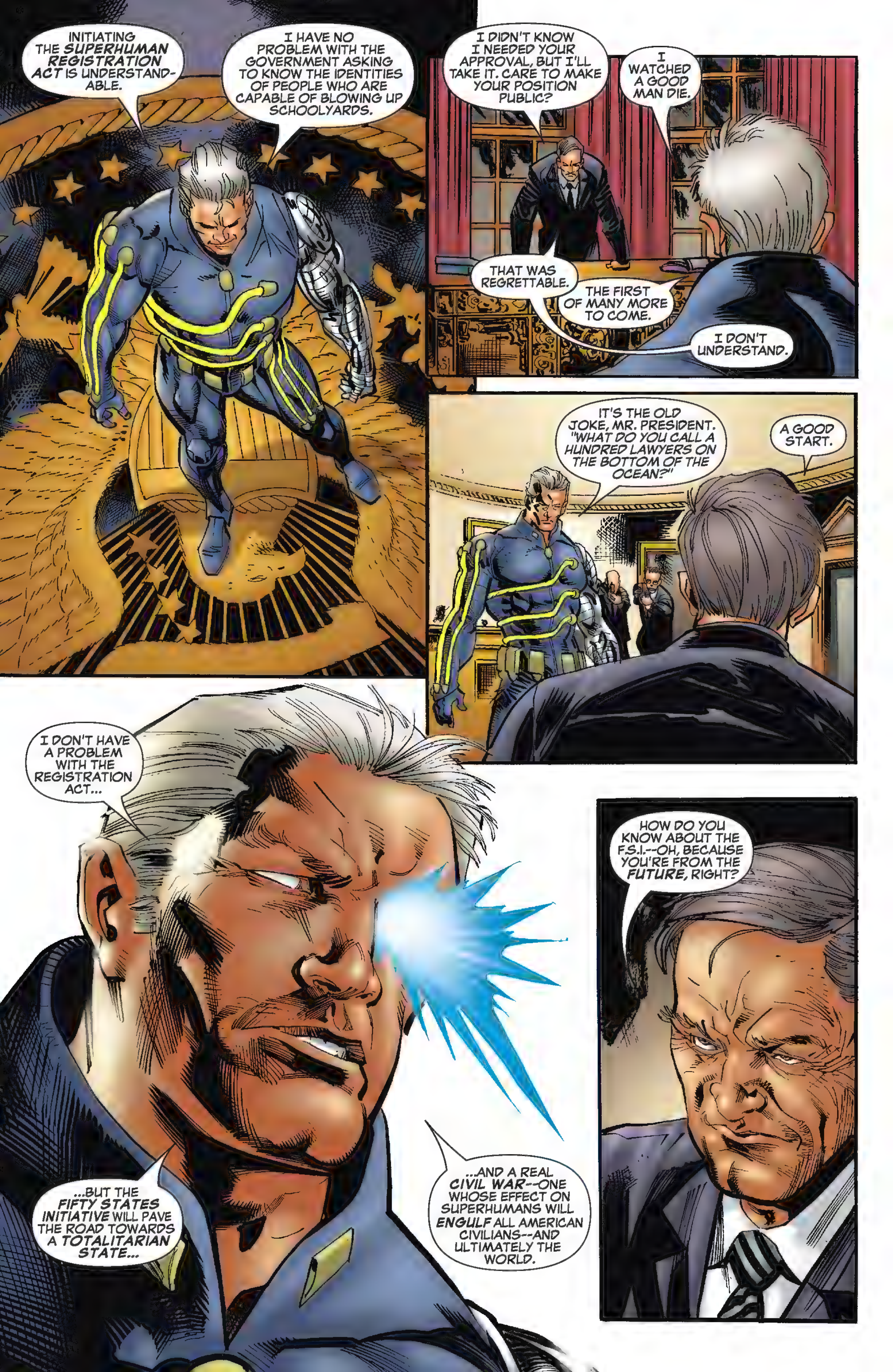

=NG RRFFA HRRFFA PYUH!=
I REALLY HAVE TO PEE!

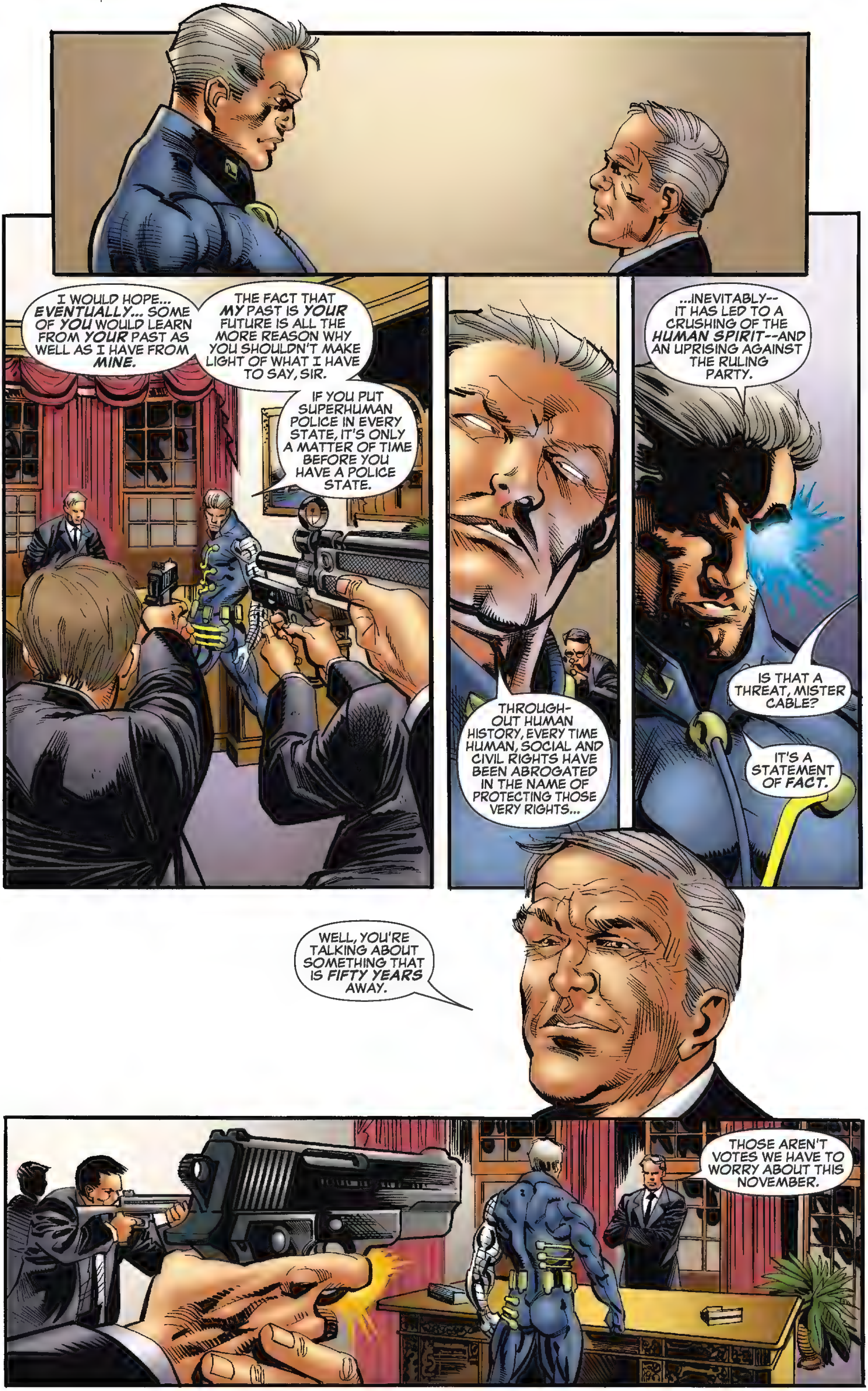

HOURS LATER...
FINALLY!
I REALLY HAVE TO PEE.
THIS ISN'T A GAME ANYMORE, **WADE.**
I WENT TO HELP THEM ON A MISSION. ONE OF OUR MEMBERS WAS **KILLED.**
WAIT A MINUTE-- **SERIOUS**--NOT BY ONE OF US **GOOD GUYS**--
--I GOT LIKE A SIX-HOUR LECTURE ON NOT CAPPING ANYONE!
SOMEONE FORGOT TO TELL THAT TO **THOR.**
THOR IS DEAD.
SOMEONE FORGOT TO TELL HIM THAT, TOO.

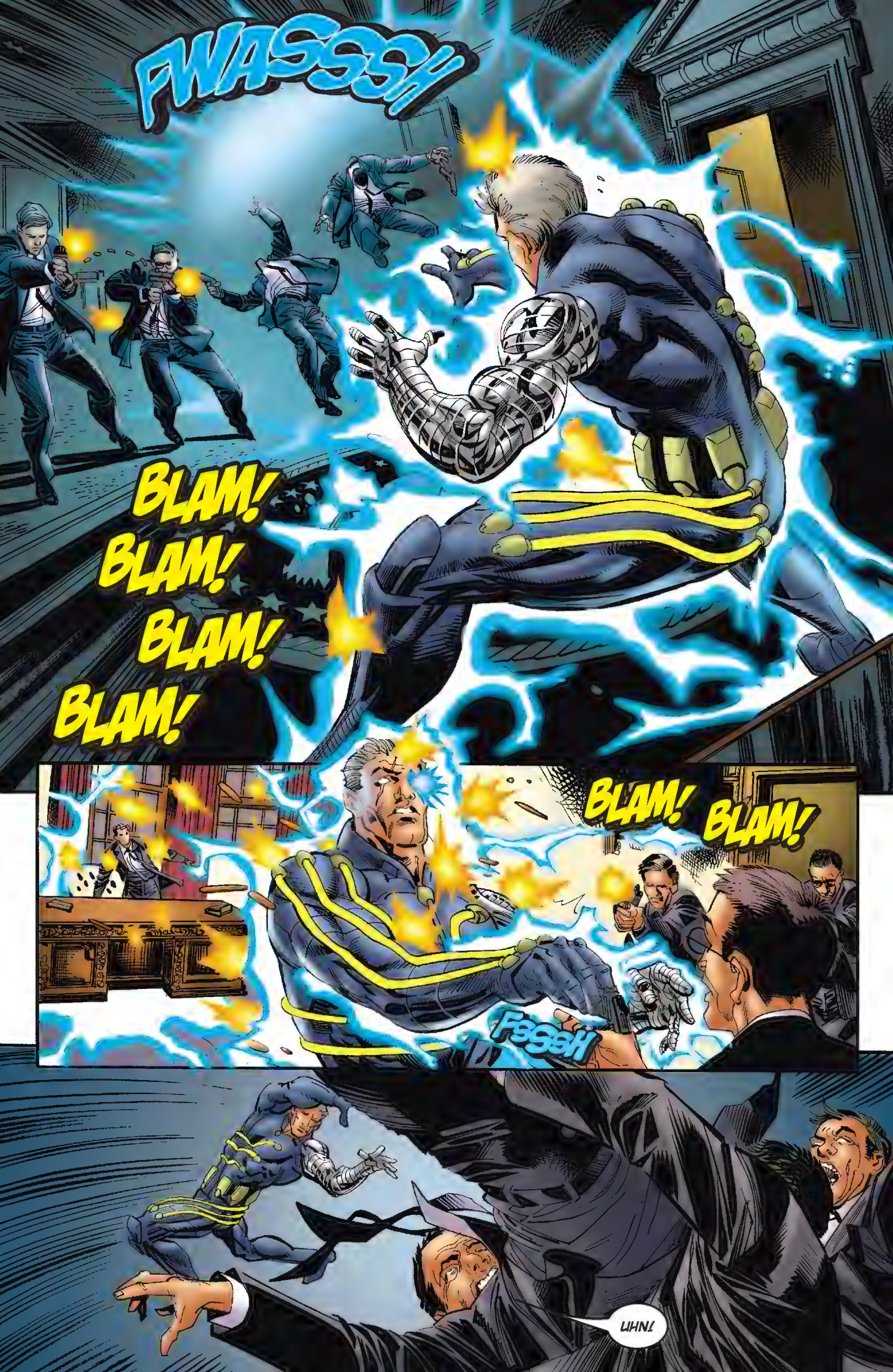

THAT KINDA SUCKS. I MEAN, WHICH ONE WAS IT? NOT THAT NUBILE WICCAN GUY, I HOPE.
I MEAN, LOSING ANY OF THOSE ADORABLE, TOP-SELLING YOUNG AVENGERS WOULD BE WRONG IN SO MANY WAYS...
JUST STOP...
I REALLY HAVE TO PEE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
WHY'RE YOU TURNING OFF YOUR GRAVIMETRIC FIELD THINGIE?
BODYSLIDE BY TWO.

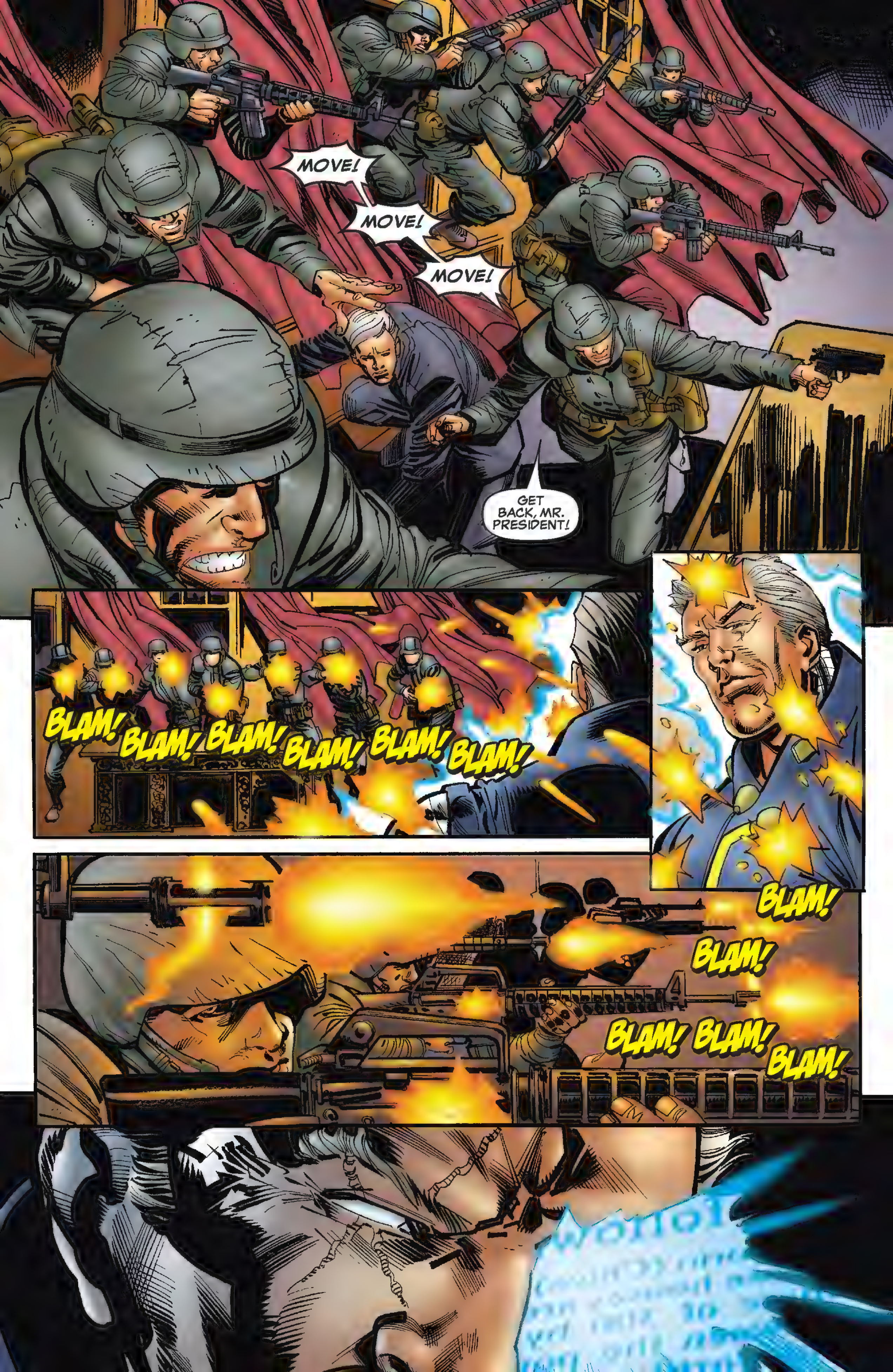

OH, THERE HAS *GOT* TO BE A BATHROOM IN THIS PLACE!
MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE TELL YOUR MEN NOT TO SHOOT.
MY BODY IS PROTECTED BY A GRAVIMETRIC SHEATH THAT WILL *REPEL* THE BULLETS.
BUT I THOUGHT IT TAKES A MINUTE TO KICK BACK IN AFTER WE--
I WOULDN'T WANT YOU OR YOUR SECRET SERVICE AGENTS TO BE HIT BY A *RICOCHET.*
I AM NOT HERE TO HURT YOU OR ANYONE ELSE. I JUST NEED TO TALK.

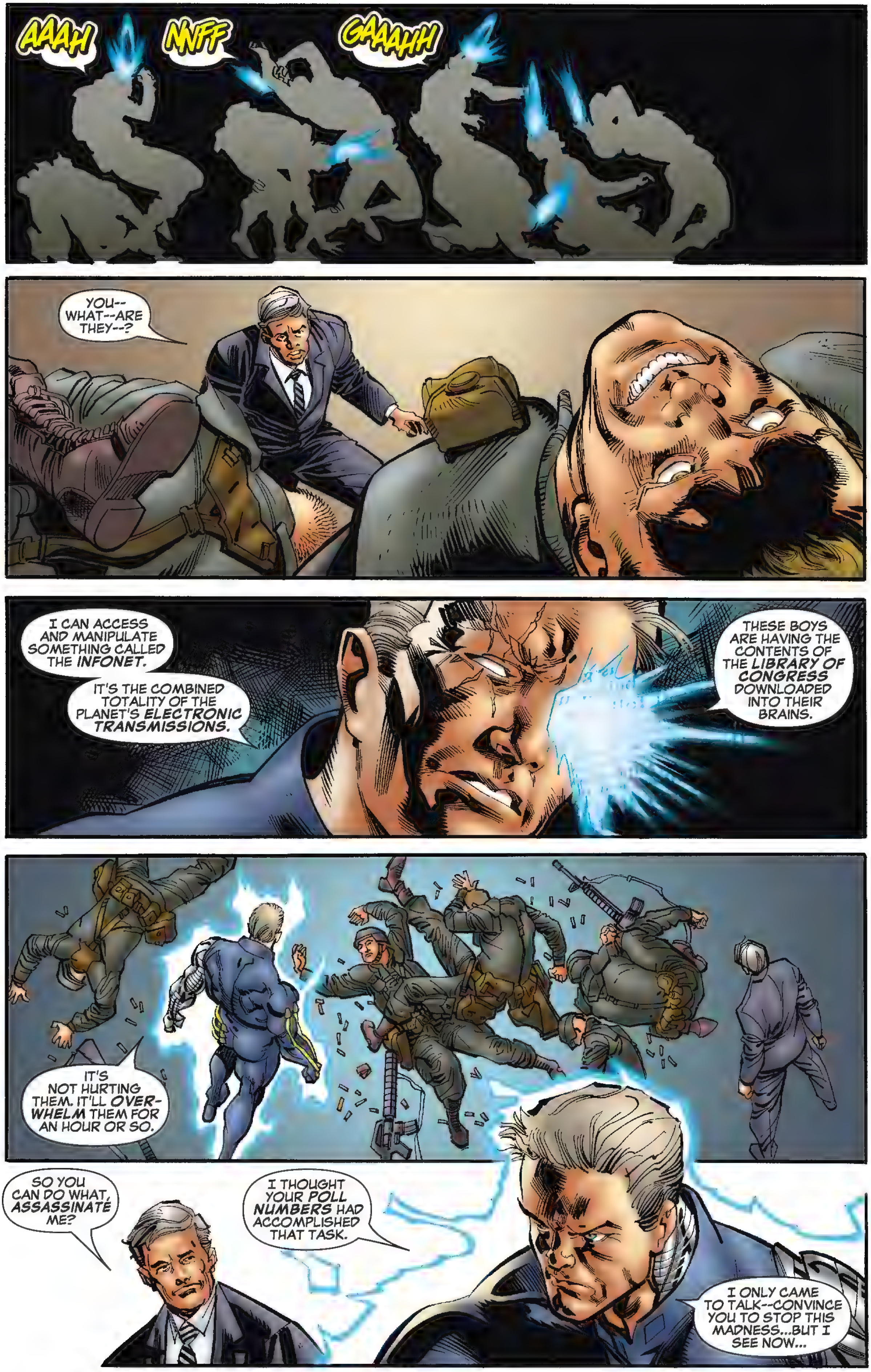

SAY WHAT YOU CAME TO SAY.
MR. PRESIDENT... I HAVE TO PEE.
THIRD DOWN ON THE RIGHT. ONE OF YOU BOYS HELP HIM OUT.
THANKS. YER THE BEST.
OH, HEY, HI. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP, I'VE BEEN GOOD TO GO SOLO SINCE I WAS FOURTEEN...
YOU KNOW I'M ON YOUR SIDE, RIGHT? I EVEN GOT A BADGE.
SO... WHAT DO I CALL YOU, PRESIDENT CABLE?
WITH YOUR PENCHANT FOR NICKNAMES, I WAS HOPING FOR SOMETHING MORE CLEVER.

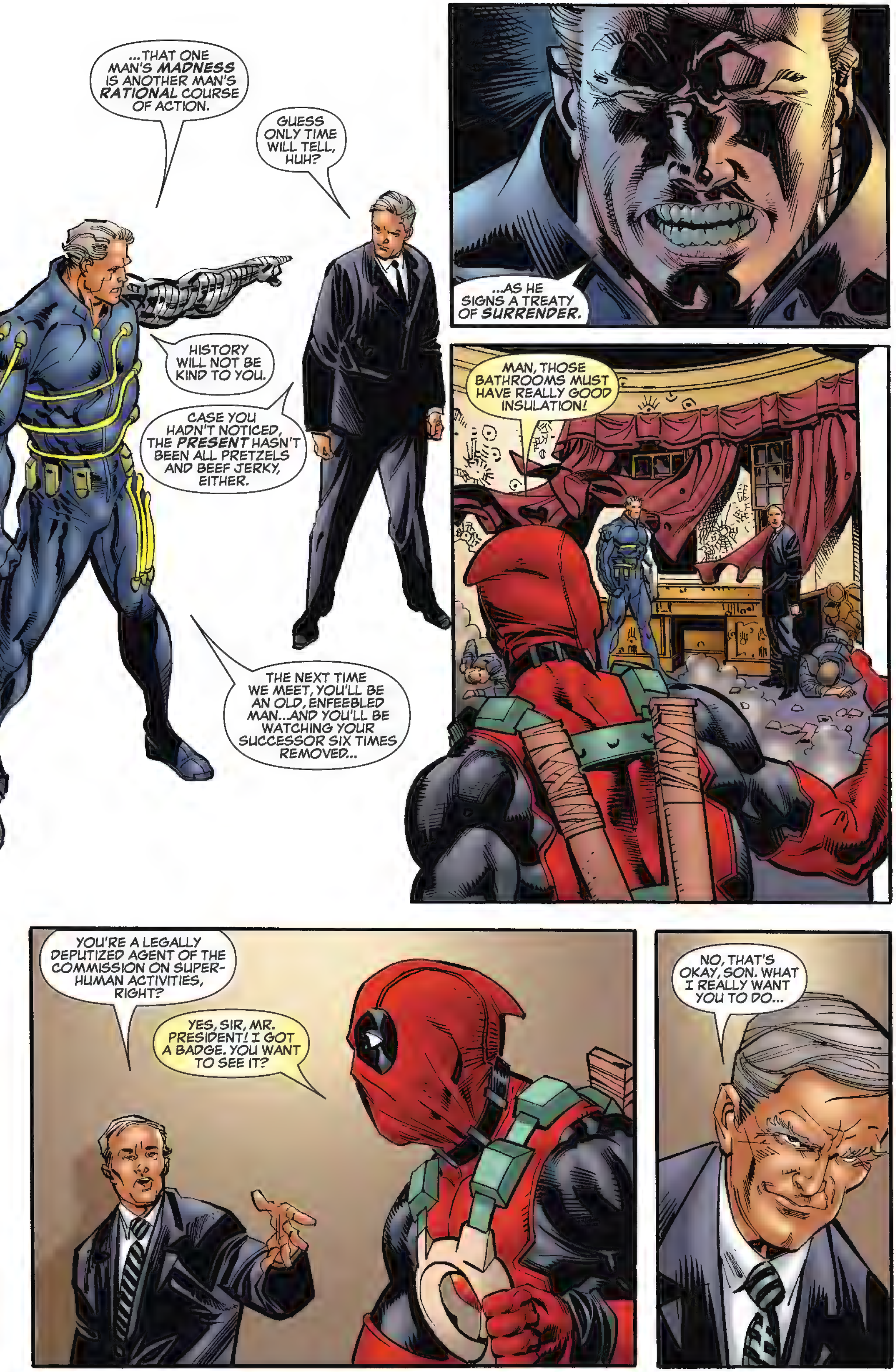

INITIATING THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT IS UNDERSTANDABLE.
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE GOVERNMENT ASKING TO KNOW THE IDENTITIES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE CAPABLE OF BLOWING UP SCHOOLYARDS.
I DIDN'T KNOW I NEEDED YOUR APPROVAL, BUT I'LL TAKE IT. CARE TO MAKE YOUR POSITION PUBLIC?
I WATCHED A GOOD MAN DIE.
THAT WAS REGRETTABLE.
THE FIRST OF MANY MORE TO COME.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IT'S THE OLD JOKE, MR. PRESIDENT. "WHAT DO YOU CALL A HUNDRED LAWYERS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN?"
A GOOD START.
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE REGISTRATION ACT...
...BUT THE FIFTY STATES INITIATIVE WILL PAVE THE ROAD TOWARDS A TOTALITARIAN STATE...
...AND A REAL CIVIL WAR--ONE WHOSE EFFECT ON SUPERHUMANS WILL ENGULF ALL AMERICAN CIVILIANS--AND ULTIMATELY THE WORLD.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE F.S.I.--OH, BECAUSE YOU'RE FROM THE FUTURE, RIGHT?

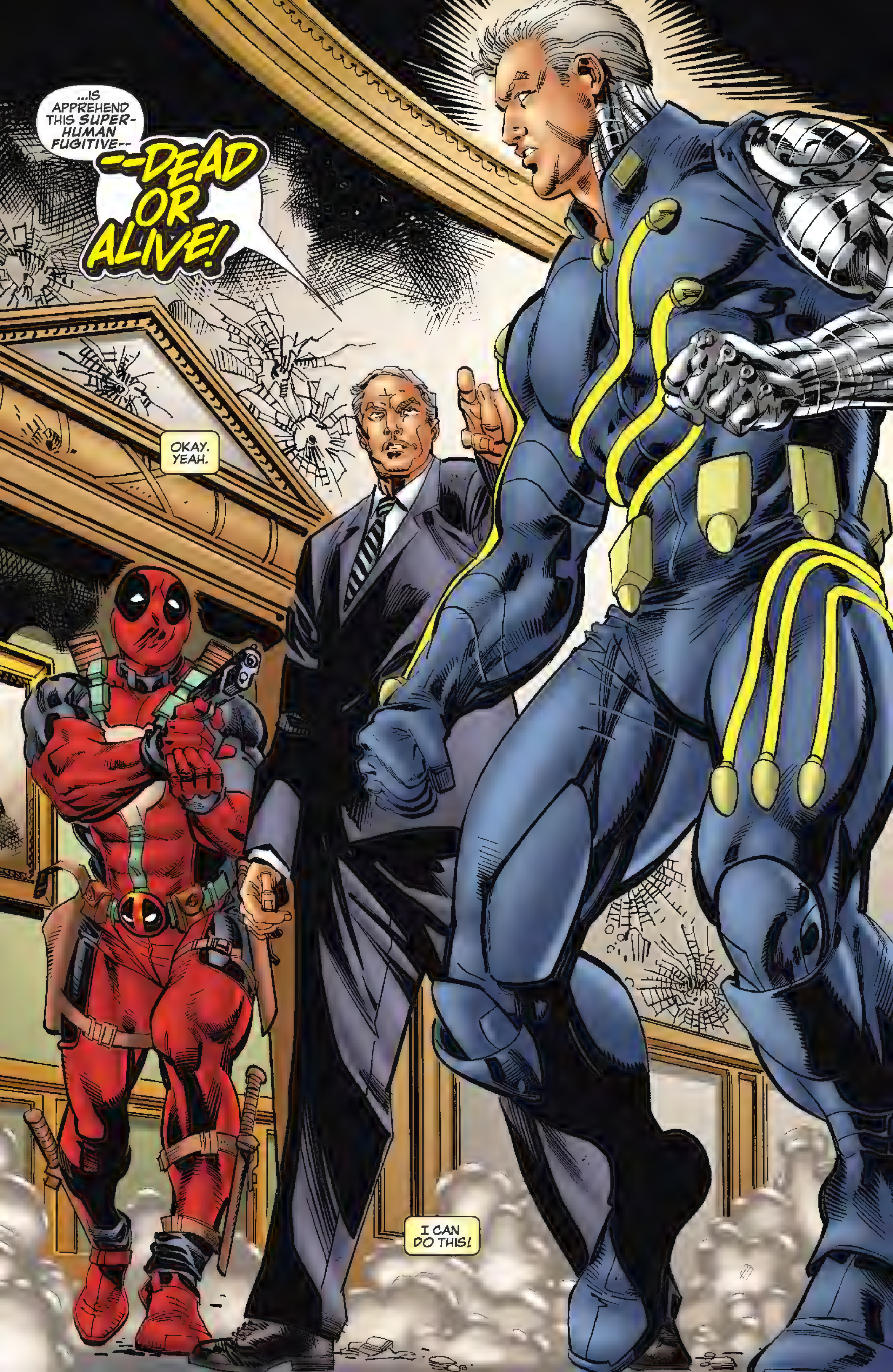

I WOULD HOPE... EVENTUALLY... SOME OF YOU WOULD LEARN FROM YOUR PAST AS WELL AS I HAVE FROM MINE.
THE FACT THAT MY PAST IS YOUR FUTURE IS ALL THE MORE REASON WHY YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE LIGHT OF WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, SIR.
IF YOU PUT SUPERHUMAN POLICE IN EVERY STATE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU HAVE A POLICE STATE.
THROUGHOUT HUMAN HISTORY, EVERY TIME HUMAN, SOCIAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN ABROGATED IN THE NAME OF PROTECTING THOSE VERY RIGHTS...
...INEVITABLY-- IT HAS LED TO A CRUSHING OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT--AND AN UPRISING AGAINST THE RULING PARTY.
IS THAT A THREAT, MISTER CABLE?
IT'S A STATEMENT OF FACT.
WELL, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT IS FIFTY YEARS AWAY.
THOSE AREN'T VOTES WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THIS NOVEMBER.


FWASSSH
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
FSSSH
UHN!


MOVE!
MOVE!
MOVE!
GET BACK, MR. PRESIDENT!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!


AAAH
NNFF
GAAAHH
YOU--WHAT--ARE THEY--?
I CAN ACCESS AND MANIPULATE SOMETHING CALLED THE *INFONET*.
IT'S THE COMBINED TOTALITY OF THE PLANET'S *ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS*.
THESE BOYS ARE HAVING THE CONTENTS OF THE *LIBRARY OF CONGRESS* DOWNLOADED INTO THEIR BRAINS.
IT'S NOT HURTING THEM. IT'LL *OVERWHELM* THEM FOR AN HOUR OR SO.
SO YOU CAN DO WHAT, *ASSASSINATE* ME?
I THOUGHT YOUR *POLL NUMBERS* HAD ACCOMPLISHED THAT TASK.
I ONLY CAME TO TALK--CONVINCE YOU TO STOP THIS MADNESS...BUT I SEE NOW...


...THAT ONE MAN'S MADNESS IS ANOTHER MAN'S RATIONAL COURSE OF ACTION.
GUESS ONLY TIME WILL TELL, HUH?
HISTORY WILL NOT BE KIND TO YOU.
CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, THE PRESENT HASN'T BEEN ALL PRETZELS AND BEEF JERKY, EITHER.
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, YOU'LL BE AN OLD, ENFEEBLED MAN...AND YOU'LL BE WATCHING YOUR SUCCESSOR SIX TIMES REMOVED...
...AS HE SIGNS A TREATY OF SURRENDER.
MAN, THOSE BATHROOMS MUST HAVE REALLY GOOD INSULATION!
YOU'RE A LEGALLY DEPUTIZED AGENT OF THE COMMISSION ON SUPER-HUMAN ACTIVITIES, RIGHT?
YES, SIR, MR. PRESIDENT! I GOT A BADGE. YOU WANT TO SEE IT?
NO, THAT'S OKAY, SON. WHAT I REALLY WANT YOU TO DO...


...IS APPREHEND THIS SUPER-HUMAN FUGITIVE-- --DEAD OR ALIVE!
OKAY. YEAH.
I CAN DO THIS!

DEAR DEADPOOL

Nicole says, "This is a fine time to welcome new readers who jumped on for Civil War and decided to stay. And to thank the ongoing readers who had the good sense to start at the beginning." Just sounds like a namby-pamby editorial way of sucking up to all of you! To those of you who've been reading us from the beginning – GOOD – shows you got some sense and smarts. You shouldn't need an extra back-pat for that, just be cool and keep that frosty, arrogant air of superiority about you every time you walk into the comic shop.

For those of you who have jumped on board during our indescribably entertaining Civil War issues, we'll take your money, but what took you mooks so long to get a clue? Show some smarts and stick around permanent-like.

Now on to your letters...

Dear Deadpool,

I just want to say you and Nate rock! I have every single issue so far (yes I'm the one), and have enjoyed it from the start. I have to admit I didn't think you guys would last this long but I am glad you proved me wrong. Before I get to some numbered questions, I just have one quick comment. In issue number 30 you mentioned Stacie Keibler, and I just wanted to let you guys know you spelled her name wrong; it's Stacy, not Stacie. Now on to the numbered questions:

1) So I see you like Rachel McAdams now, does Bea know about this?
2) If you ever have Rachel and Bea wrestle in pudding can you invite me over?
A) Who do you think will win?
3) Have you ever thought of writing an autobiography?
4) Will you ever have your own E! True Hollywood Story? (I mean, Tara Reid even has one!)
5) Besides being the "Merc with the Mouth," do you have any other hobbies or favorite pastimes?
6) I recently just graduated college with a B.A. in Dramatic Arts, any advice?
A) Do you accept internships?
B) Need a sidekick?

Possibly your future sidekick/intern,
Joey Harrison

P.S. I am glad to see I am not the only person losing my first-person narrative powers. Mine went on the fritz on a date; boy, was my face red.

Okay, I spelled Stacie's name wrong. Sorry, unlike you, Joey, I wasn't looking at her NAME on the cover of Maxim magazine.

Ooh, numbered questions.
1) I am man enough to spread my love around.
2) You're a sick, twisted, oddly compelling young man.
A) Bea's a handful.
3) I've thought of writing it. Apparently, no one has thought of publishing it.
4) Tara Reid cracks me up.
5) I like to make origami decorations for lace table settings. What do you think, mook? I like to stab, bludgeon, maim and annihilate, that's what I like to do!
6) I hear Wal-Mart is hiring.
A) Send your resume to Marvel's human resources department. They haven't had a good laugh lately.
B) I need someone who I can stab, bludgeon, maim or annihilate as the mood suits me in order to vent my pent-up aggression. Yeah, I guess I do need an intern...

Hey 'Pool,

I picked up the latest issue (#30) just because it was a Civil War crossover and I got the surprise of my life!

Understand, I was a huge comics fan in the nineties and had pretty much given them up--being grown and all--but I got back into Marvel Comics when I heard about the New Avengers. And then with Civil War, I mean, who hasn't imagined what would happen if various heroes got into it with each other? Needless to say, I'm back...

...but *Cable & Deadpool*? Issue 30 was the first time I've read the book, and I have to admit it was my favorite of all the Civil War crossovers so far!

First of all, the humor...This mag is straight-up funny! I mean from the way 'Pool escaped from Big Bertha's clutches, to getting his &*% handed to him by Squirrel Girl(!), and then not wanting to go after Cap because he thought he would get the crap kicked out of him...I don't remember ever laughing out loud while reading a comic! And then top it all off with his first-person narrative getting all screwed up and the whole defying-the-4th-dimension thing...Classic! I know She-Hulk did the whole talking-to-the-reader thing years ago, but was it ever this amusing? I think not!

Then there's the characters...I have loved both Cable and Deadpool since back in the New Mutant days (I pride myself on having both of their first appearances, by the way), and they have developed so much over the years!

However, in the midst of all this goodness, I have one request: Please reprint volume one of the *Cable & Deadpool* trade paperback! I have searched all my local comic shops and no one has a copy! I've even tried looking online, but that, too, was of no avail! Come on, people! You know doing a Civil War crossover is going to promote new interest! Would you mind helping me out on this?

Okay, I'm out. If the next issue is as good as this one I'll write again.

Later,
Dion Bickham

Nicole says, "Note! If you insult Bendis or the New Avengers, I will delete it!" What does that mean? I could only DREAM of being asked to be in the NEW AVENGERS. I mean, such an exclusive club and all... [This portion deleted due to rampant sarcasm.] Uhm... I better shut up now or else they'll delete this answer...

Oh, and about that trade paperback request, is it too much to ask that Marvel keeps my glorious adventures in print? Someone give me some help here, okay? Dion is looking to check out all our great issues and we're trying to make a buck here, aren't we?

Dion – check next issue's "Dear Deadpool" for an update on the availability of Cable & Deadpool Volume 1! -Nicole

Dear Deadpool,

The X-Men used to be my favorite comic until I just so happened to pick up an issue of *Cable/Deadpool*. You guys jumped to the head of my fav list, so much so that I'm bleeding my savings dry trying to buy up anything you've ever been in...I hope you appreciate all the trouble I'm going through! On the plus side, I'm trying to convince everyone I know to buy your issues, so if you see a sudden spike in sales you'll know who to thank.

Being a new fan, I've researched the Web for more information on you but it seems you're more of a mystery than Wolverine's past (well, at least up until the James Howlett thing showed up). So I have some questions:

1) Why the obsession with Bea Arthur? I agree she's a great actress, but dude - she's old enough to be your mother. Come to think of it, seems like you have a thing for older women...
2) Why are you so hard on Nate in your letters? He's your new best bud, give him a break!
3) Why didn't you show up at the Comic Con this year? There were tons of Jedis, Stormtroopers and mostly-naked anime girls, but not a single Deadpool. Next year I think you should do the Slim Shady thing and march in there with an army of 'Pools. And you should kidnap Bowen and make him do a full-sized figurine of you. Yeah...that would make me happy.

Your loyal and entertained new fan,
Daisy

Now, Daisy, no reason to bleed dry your savings account. Just tell me where you live and I'd be happy to re-enact all my issues for you live and in person. Now, you'll need about sixty-three gallons of chocolate pudding to re-enact issue #13 where me an' this girl, Daisy, hey, what a coincidence, she's got the same name as you--

Oooh, numbered questions!
1) I don't have a thing for older women, just B. By any chance, are you an older woman?
2) If you read next issue, you'll know why I'm mad at Nate...
3) Yeah, as if I'd be caught dead at a comic con.

That's funny. Then again, lots of tasty targets to choose from... anyone dressed like the NEW AVENGERS...?

Does it take a meta-carpenter to fix a broken fourth wall?

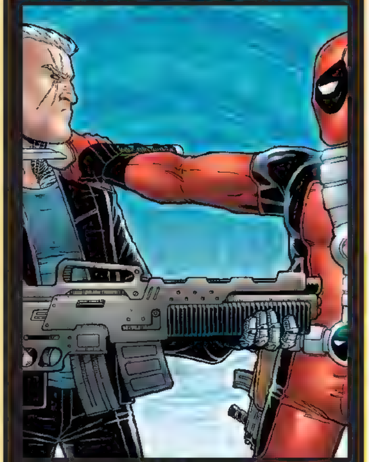
Paul Di Filippo

Yeah, you're a regular Edward Nigma there, Paul. Thank goodness for e-mail, `cause in the old days, if you'd wasted the cost of a stamp for that lame line, I really would have come down on you hard. Uhm... I abuse you mostly `cause I actually can't answer your question.

That's it for this month. Sorry I was in a cranky mood, but I had to pee all issue long and Nicole asked to answer these right after page 22 when I was on my way to the bathroom in the White House. Which, by the way, are very lovely bathrooms.

And what the heck is Nicole doing in the White House at night hunting me down to answer letters? I wonder if she's registered her Superhuman Power to Annoy Me or not...

NEXT ISSUE:



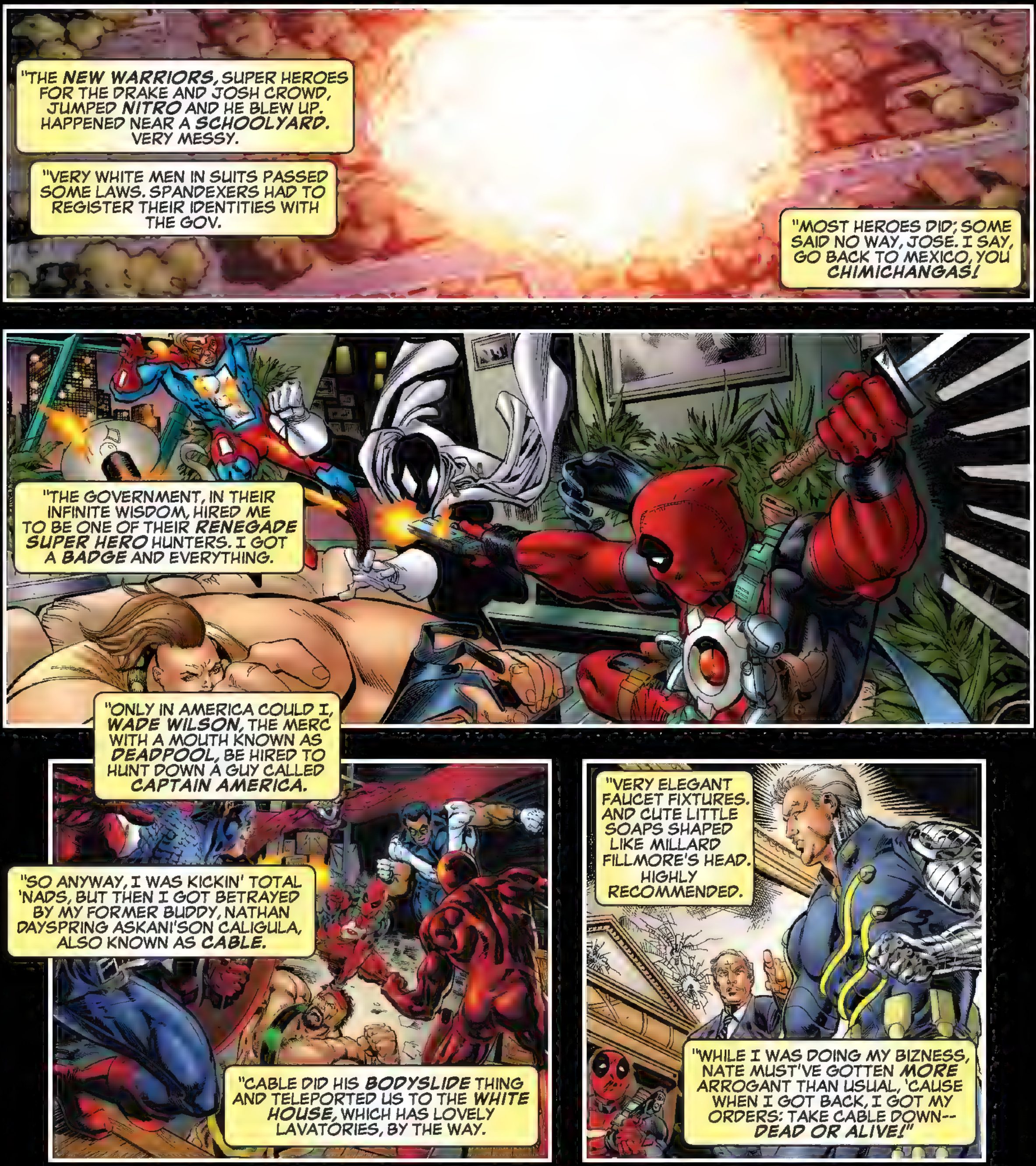
Me an' Nate have a lovers' quarrel. Not that there's anything wrong with that. And all kidding aside, the Civil War totally changes everything for this book! At least until the next event.

CABLE & DEADPOOL

A MARVEL COMICS EVENT

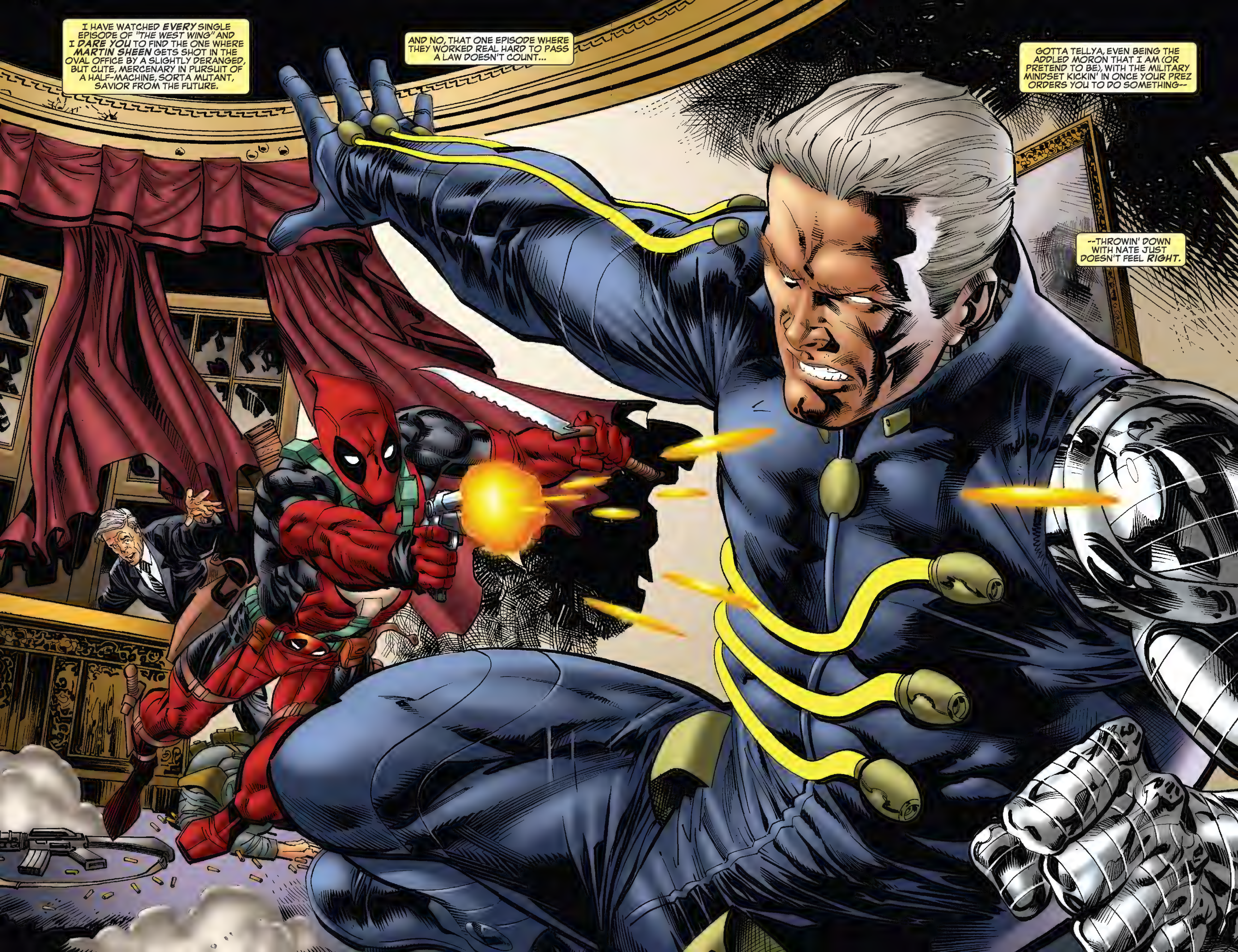
CIVIL WAR

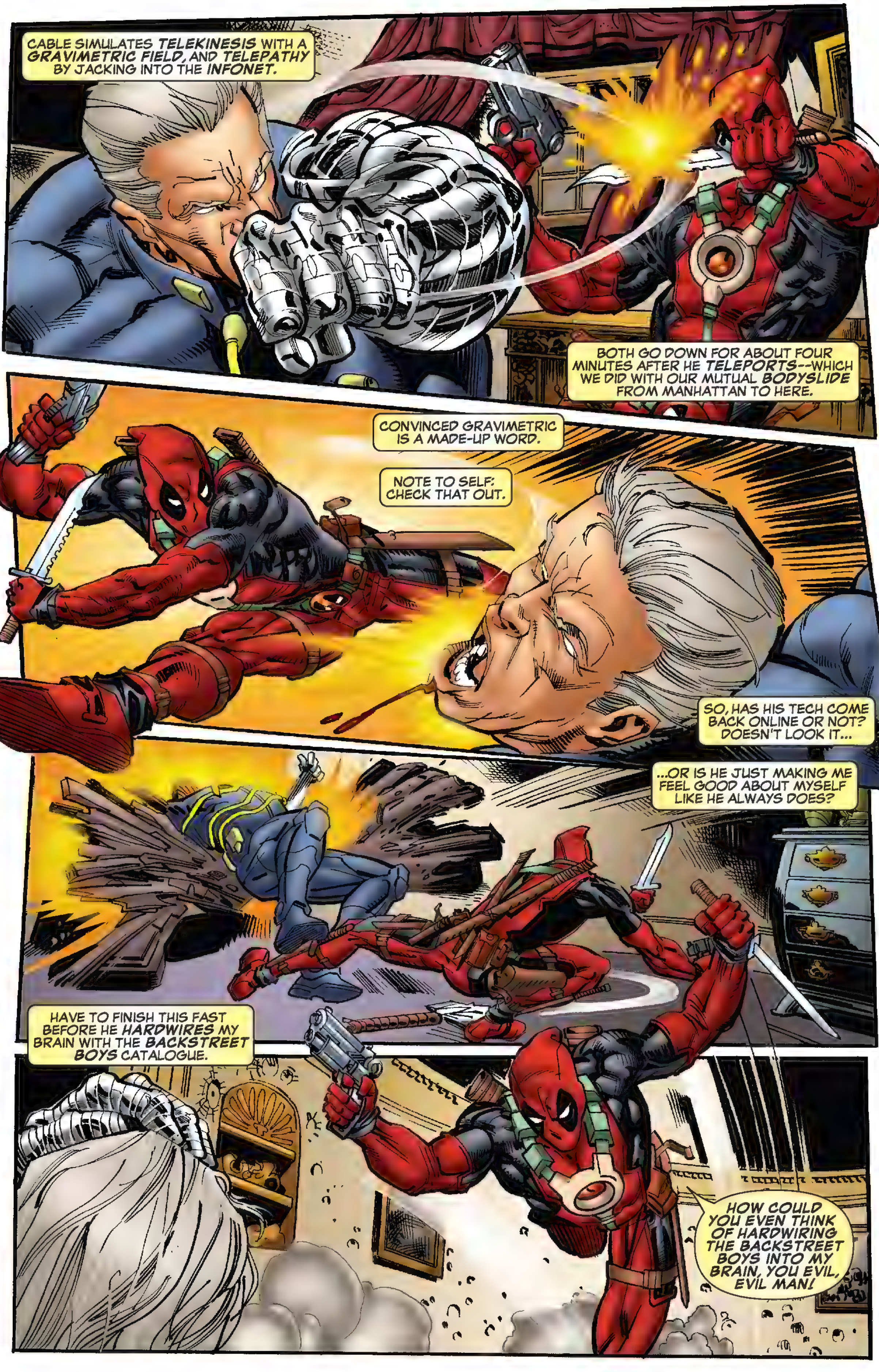
32

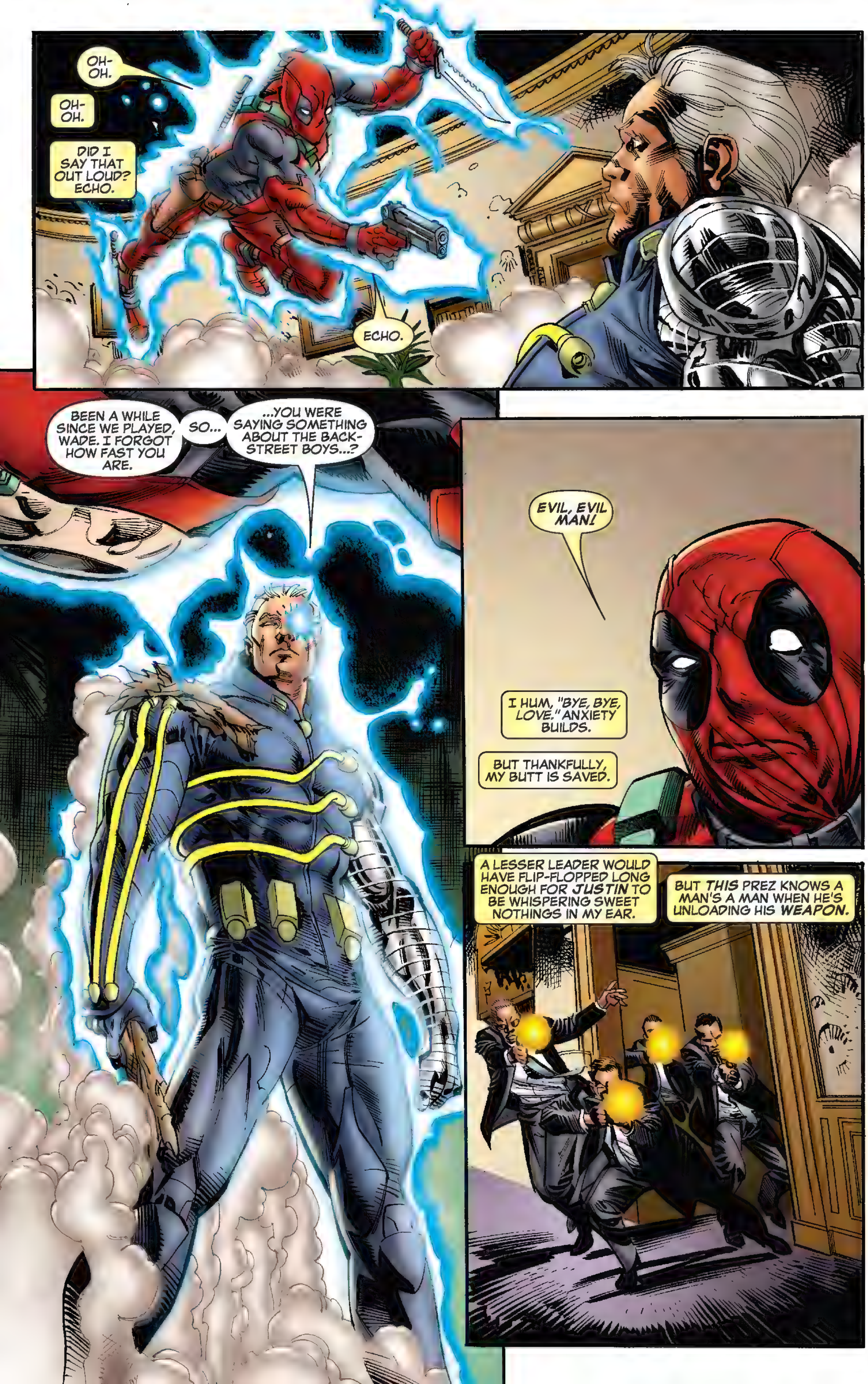

"THE NEW WARRIORS, SUPER HEROES FOR THE DRAKE AND JOSH CROWD, JUMPED NITRO AND HE BLEW UP. HAPPENED NEAR A SCHOOLYARD. VERY MESSY.
"VERY WHITE MEN IN SUITS PASSED SOME LAWS. SPANDEXERS HAD TO REGISTER THEIR IDENTITIES WITH THE GOV.
"MOST HEROES DID; SOME SAID NO WAY, JOSE. I SAY, GO BACK TO MEXICO, YOU CHIMICHANGAS!
"THE GOVERNMENT, IN THEIR INFINITE WISDOM, HIRED ME TO BE ONE OF THEIR RENEGADE SUPER HERO HUNTERS. I GOT A BADGE AND EVERYTHING.
"ONLY IN AMERICA COULD I, WADE WILSON, THE MERC WITH A MOUTH KNOWN AS DEADPOOL, BE HIRED TO HUNT DOWN A GUY CALLED CAPTAIN AMERICA.
"SO ANYWAY, I WAS KICKIN' TOTAL 'NADS, BUT THEN I GOT BETRAYED BY MY FORMER BUDDY, NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON CALIGULA, ALSO KNOWN AS CABLE.
"CABLE DID HIS BODYSLIDE THING AND TELEPORTED US TO THE WHITE HOUSE, WHICH HAS LOVELY LAVATORIES, BY THE WAY.
"VERY ELEGANT FAUCET FIXTURES. AND CUTE LITTLE SOAPS SHAPED LIKE MILLARD FILLMORE'S HEAD. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.
"WHILE I WAS DOING MY BIZNESS, NATE MUST'VE GOTTEN MORE ARROGANT THAN USUAL, 'CAUSE WHEN I GOT BACK, I GOT MY ORDERS: TAKE CABLE DOWN--DEAD OR ALIVE!"

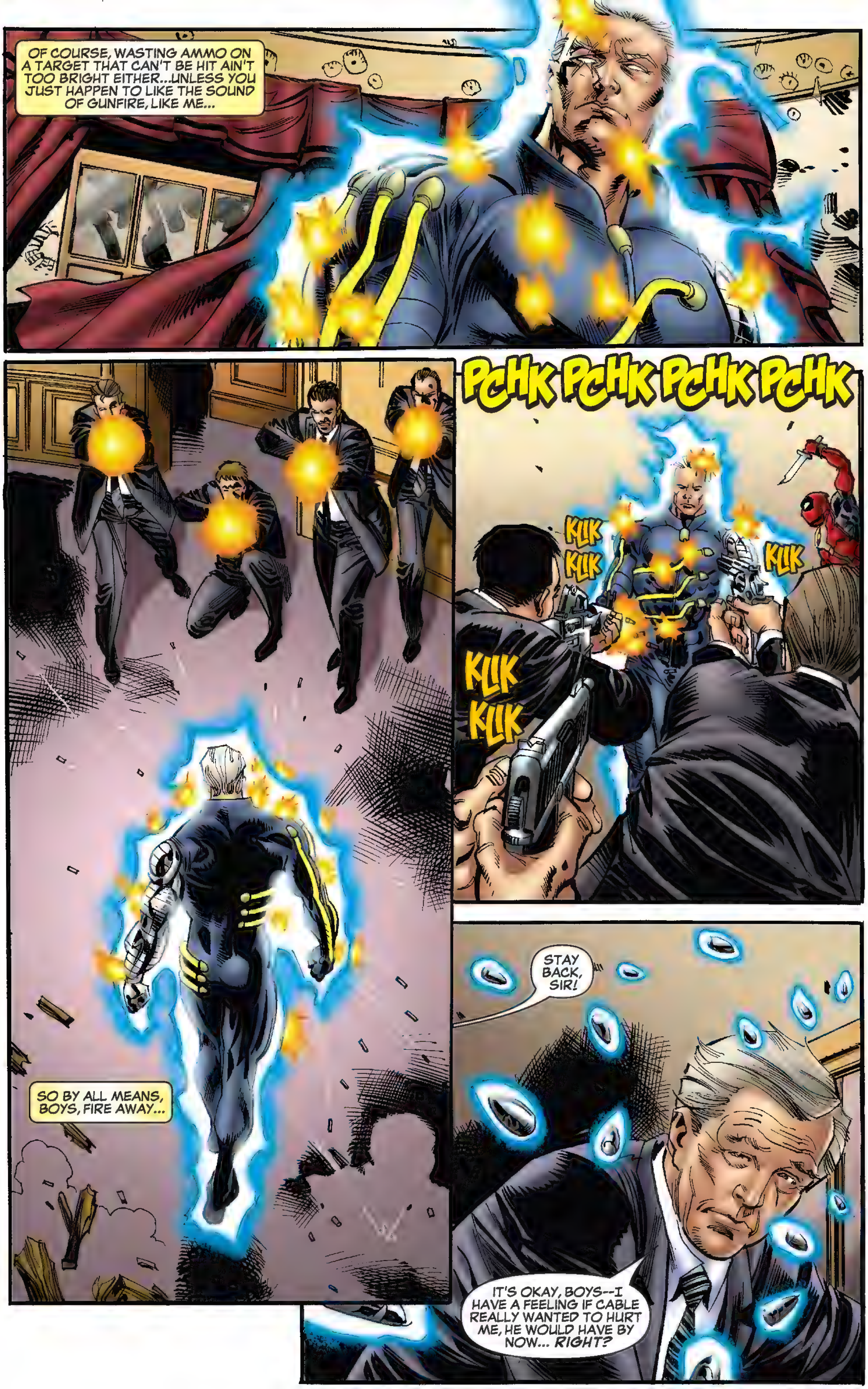
A HOUSE DIVIDED

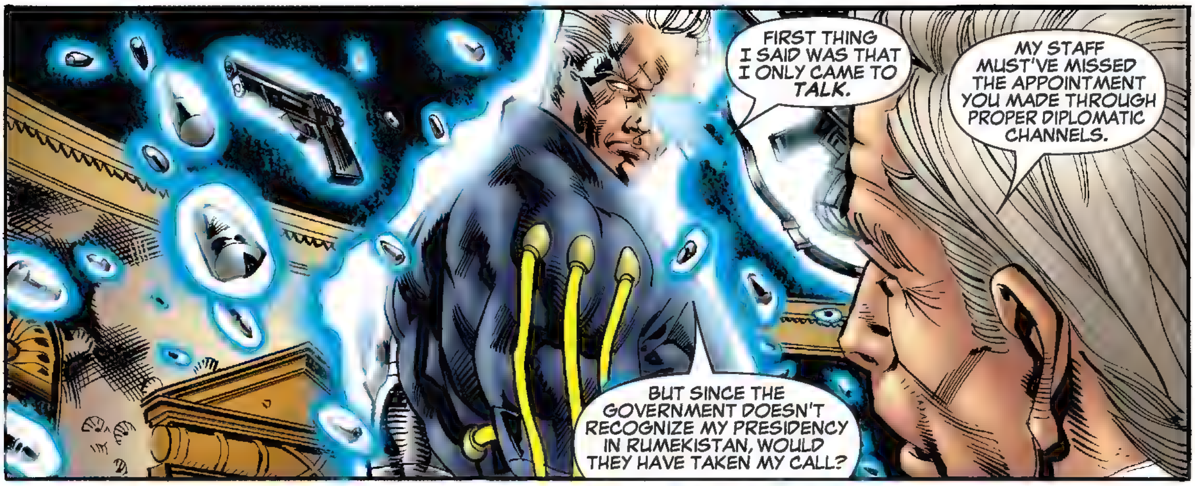
A MARVEL CIVIL WAR TIE-IN

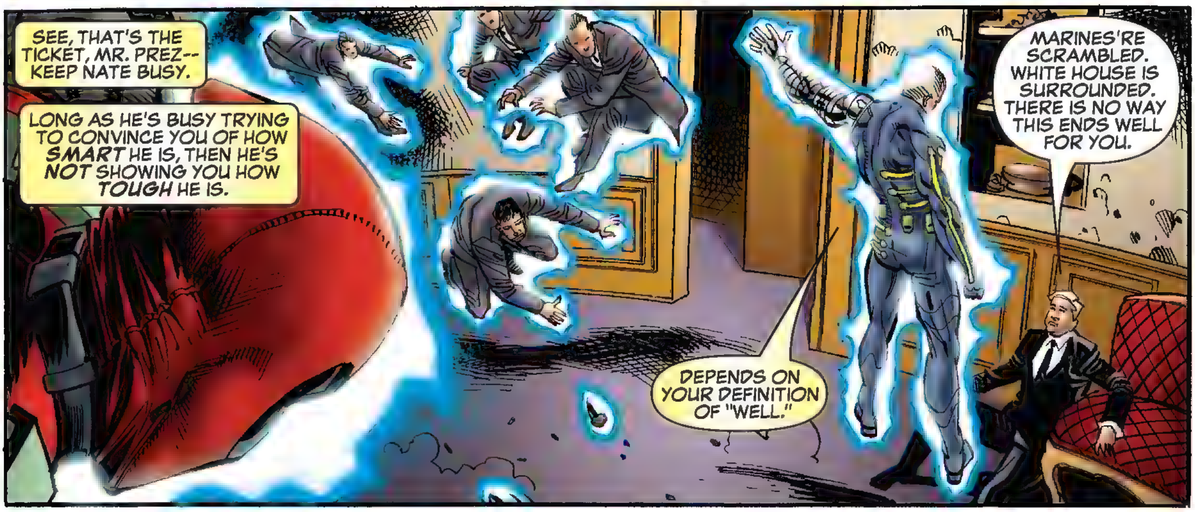

I HAVE WATCHED **EVERY** SINGLE EPISODE OF "THE WEST WING" AND I **DARE YOU** TO FIND THE ONE WHERE **MARTIN SHEEN** GETS SHOT IN THE OVAL OFFICE BY A SLIGHTLY DERANGED, BUT CUTE, MERCENARY IN PURSUIT OF A HALF-MACHINE, SORTA MUTANT, SAVIOR FROM THE FUTURE.
AND NO, THAT ONE EPISODE WHERE THEY WORKED REAL HARD TO PASS A LAW DOESN'T COUNT...
GOTTA TELLYA, EVEN BEING THE ADDLED MORON THAT I AM (OR PRETEND TO BE), WITH THE MILITARY MINDSET KICKIN' IN ONCE YOUR PREZ ORDERS YOU TO DO SOMETHING--
--THROWIN' DOWN WITH NATE JUST DOESN'T FEEL **RIGHT**.

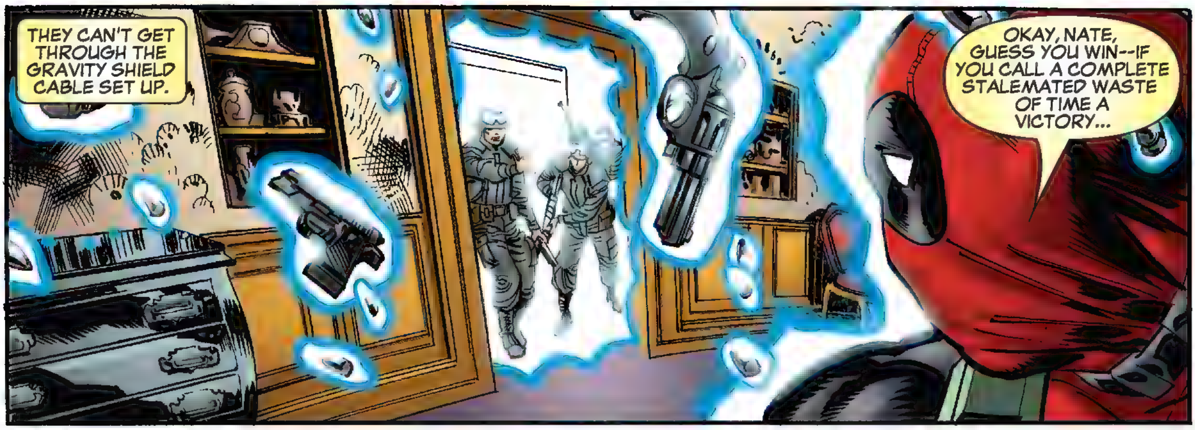

CABLE SIMULATES TELEKINESIS WITH A GRAVIMETRIC FIELD, AND TELEPATHY BY JACKING INTO THE INFONET.
BOTH GO DOWN FOR ABOUT FOUR MINUTES AFTER HE TELEPORTS--WHICH WE DID WITH OUR MUTUAL BODYSLIDE FROM MANHATTAN TO HERE.
CONVINCED GRAVIMETRIC IS A MADE-UP WORD.
NOTE TO SELF: CHECK THAT OUT.
SO, HAS HIS TECH COME BACK ONLINE OR NOT? DOESN'T LOOK IT...
...OR IS HE JUST MAKING ME FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES?
HAVE TO FINISH THIS FAST BEFORE HE HARDWIRES MY BRAIN WITH THE BACKSTREET BOYS CATALOGUE.
HOW COULD YOU EVEN THINK OF HARDWIRING THE BACKSTREET BOYS INTO MY BRAIN, YOU EVIL, EVIL MAN!

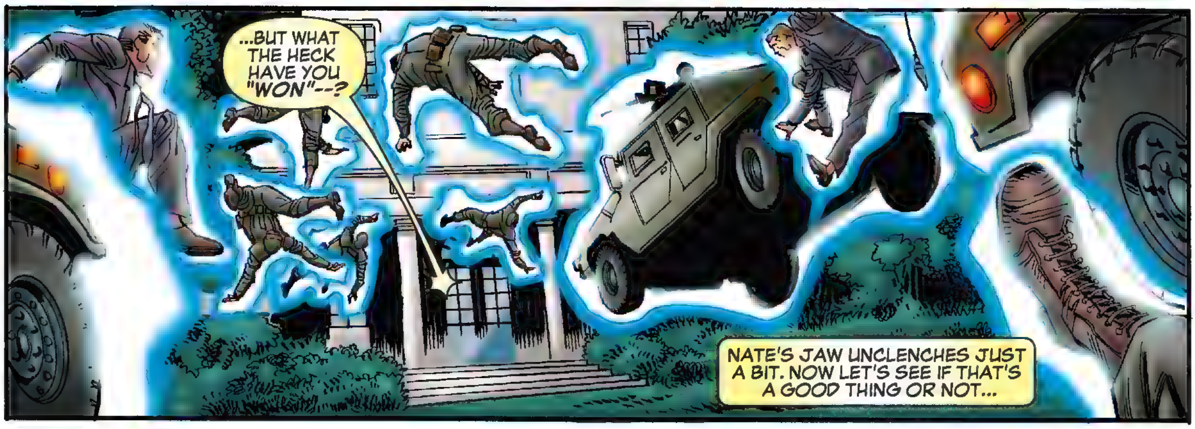

OH-OH.
OH-OH.
DID I SAY THAT OUT LOUD? ECHO.
ECHO.
BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE PLAYED, WADE. I FORGOT HOW FAST YOU ARE.
SO...
...YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT THE BACKSTREET BOYS...?
EVIL, EVIL MAN!
I HUM, "BYE, BYE, LOVE." ANXIETY BUILDS.
BUT THANKFULLY, MY BUTT IS SAVED.
A LESSER LEADER WOULD HAVE FLIP-FLOPPED LONG ENOUGH FOR JUSTIN TO BE WHISPERING SWEET NOTHINGS IN MY EAR.
BUT THIS PREZ KNOWS A MAN'S A MAN WHEN HE'S UNLOADING HIS WEAPON.

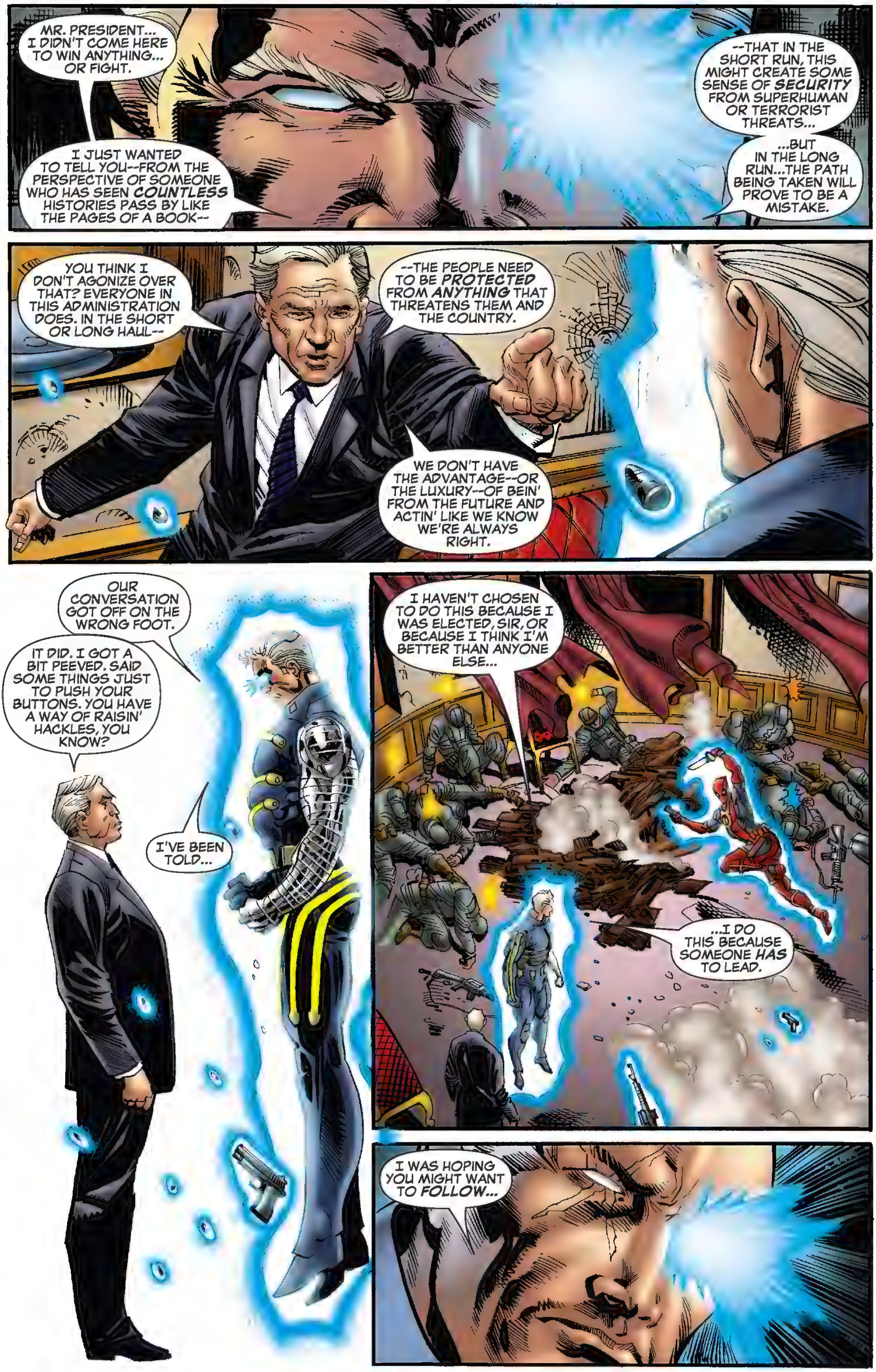

OF COURSE, WASTING AMMO ON A TARGET THAT CAN'T BE HIT AIN'T TOO BRIGHT EITHER...UNLESS YOU JUST HAPPEN TO LIKE THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE, LIKE ME...
PCHK PCHK PCHK PCHK
KLIK KLIK
KLIK
KLIK KLIK
SO BY ALL MEANS, BOYS, FIRE AWAY...
STAY BACK, SIR!
IT'S OKAY, BOYS--I HAVE A FEELING IF CABLE REALLY WANTED TO HURT ME, HE WOULD HAVE BY NOW... *RIGHT?*

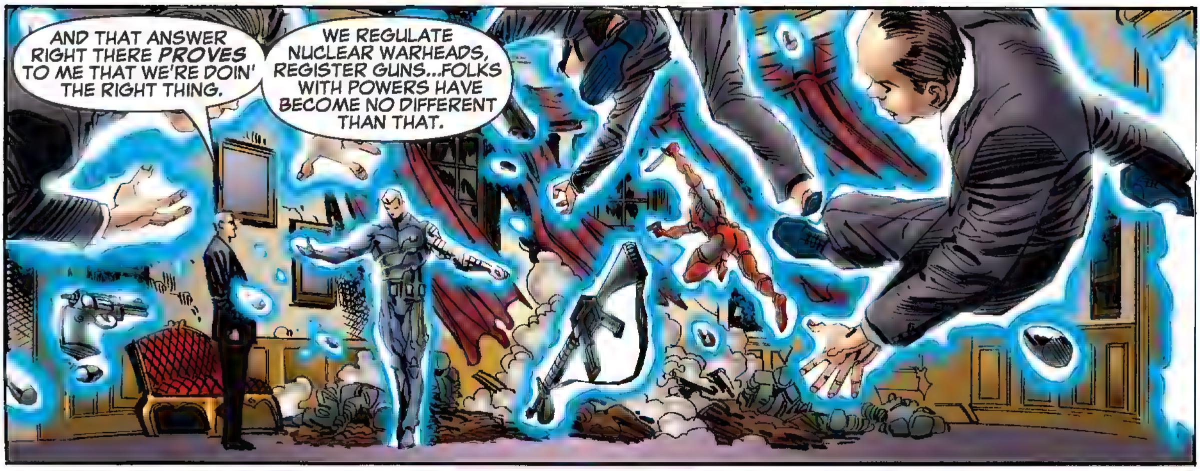

FIRST THING I SAID WAS THAT I ONLY CAME TO *TALK*.
MY STAFF MUST'VE MISSED THE APPOINTMENT YOU MADE THROUGH PROPER DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.
BUT SINCE THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T RECOGNIZE MY PRESIDENCY IN RUMEKISTAN, WOULD THEY HAVE TAKEN MY CALL?

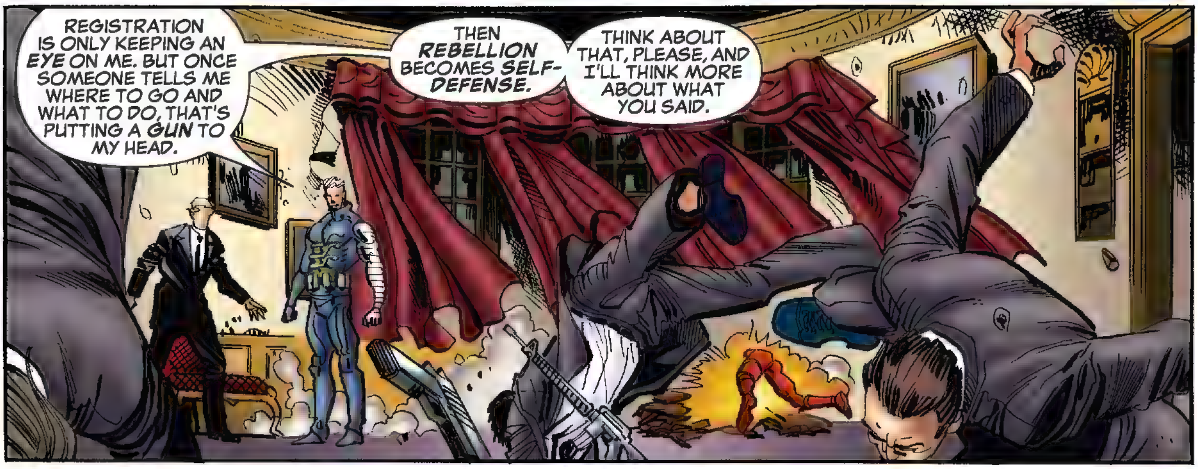

SEE, THAT'S THE TICKET, MR. PREZ-- KEEP NATE BUSY.
LONG AS HE'S BUSY TRYING TO CONVINCE YOU OF HOW ***SMART*** HE IS, THEN HE'S ***NOT*** SHOWING YOU HOW ***TOUGH*** HE IS.
MARINES'RE SCRAMBLED. WHITE HOUSE IS SURROUNDED. THERE IS NO WAY THIS ENDS WELL FOR YOU.
DEPENDS ON YOUR DEFINITION OF "WELL."

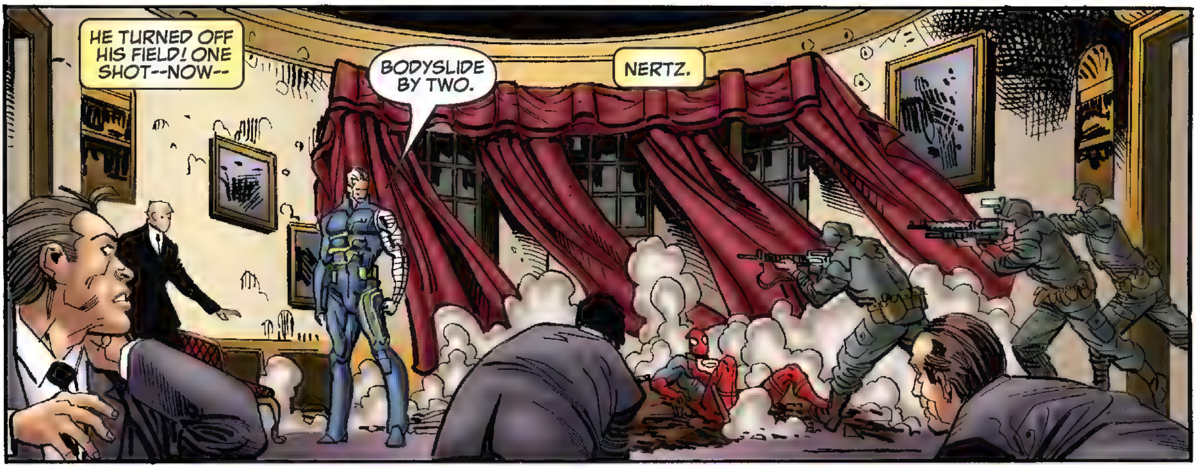

THEY CAN'T GET THROUGH THE GRAVITY SHIELD CABLE SET UP.
OKAY, NATE, GUESS YOU WIN--IF YOU CALL A COMPLETE STALEMATED WASTE OF TIME A VICTORY...

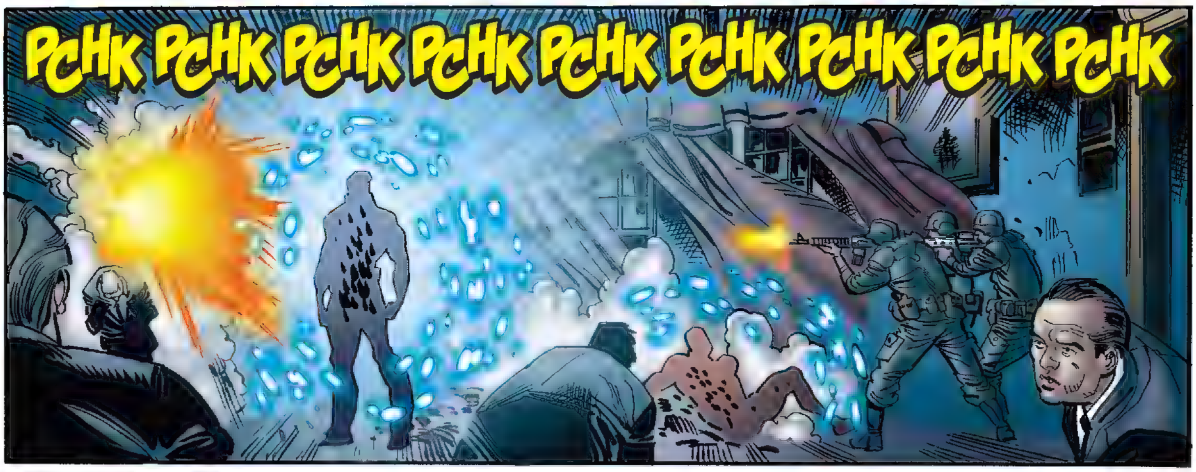

...BUT WHAT THE HECK HAVE YOU *"WON"*--?
NATE'S JAW UNCLENCHES JUST A BIT. NOW LET'S SEE IF THAT'S A GOOD THING OR NOT...

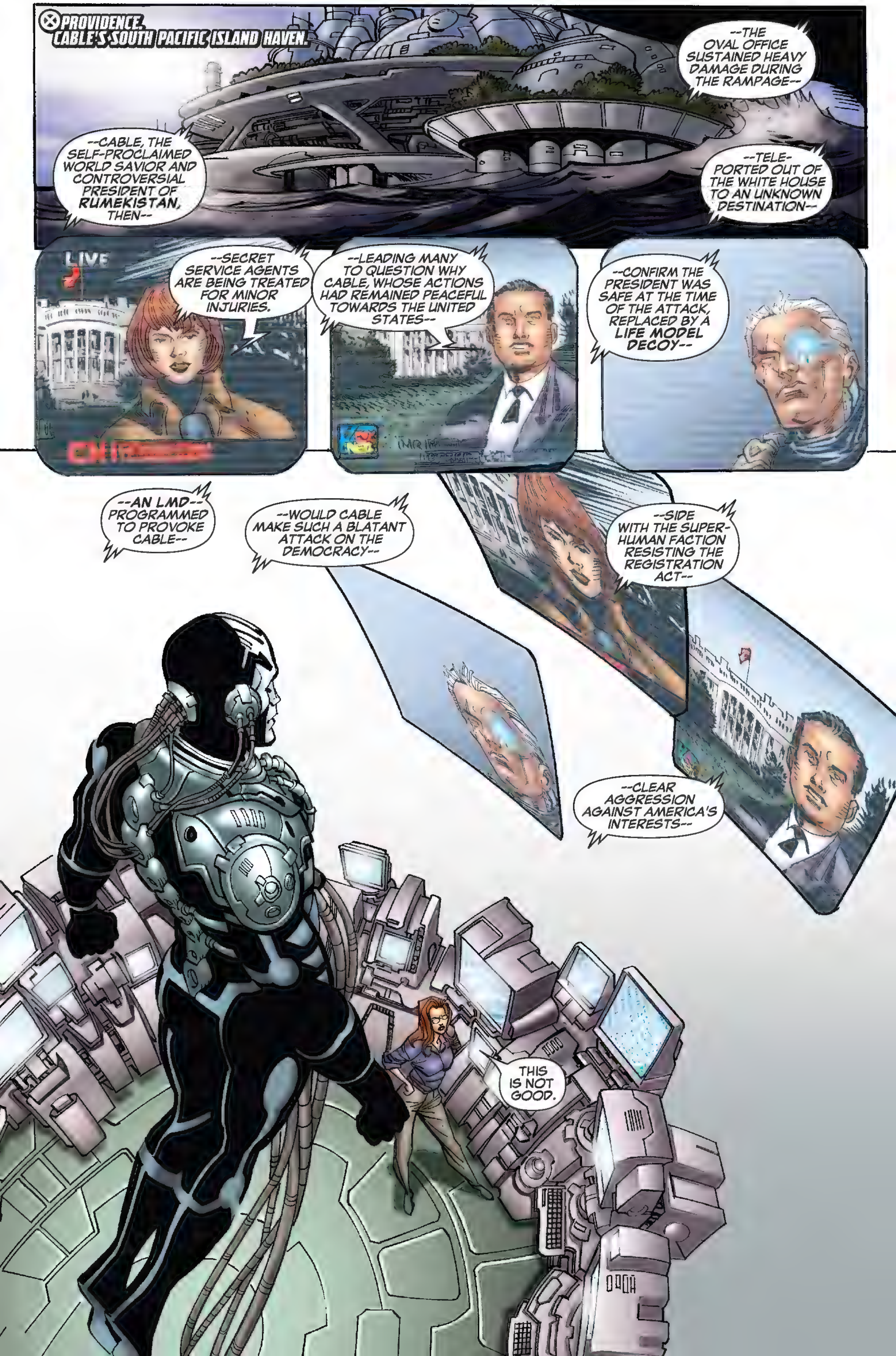

MR. PRESIDENT... I DIDN'T COME HERE TO WIN ANYTHING... OR FIGHT.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU--FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS SEEN COUNTLESS HISTORIES PASS BY LIKE THE PAGES OF A BOOK--
--THAT IN THE SHORT RUN, THIS MIGHT CREATE SOME SENSE OF SECURITY FROM SUPERHUMAN OR TERRORIST THREATS...
...BUT IN THE LONG RUN...THE PATH BEING TAKEN WILL PROVE TO BE A MISTAKE.
YOU THINK I DON'T AGONIZE OVER THAT? EVERYONE IN THIS ADMINISTRATION DOES. IN THE SHORT OR LONG HAUL--
--THE PEOPLE NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM ANYTHING THAT THREATENS THEM AND THE COUNTRY.
WE DON'T HAVE THE ADVANTAGE--OR THE LUXURY--OF BEIN' FROM THE FUTURE AND ACTIN' LIKE WE KNOW WE'RE ALWAYS RIGHT.
OUR CONVERSATION GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT.
IT DID. I GOT A BIT PEEVED. SAID SOME THINGS JUST TO PUSH YOUR BUTTONS. YOU HAVE A WAY OF RAISIN' HACKLES, YOU KNOW?
I'VE BEEN TOLD...
I HAVEN'T CHOSEN TO DO THIS BECAUSE I WAS ELECTED, SIR, OR BECAUSE I THINK I'M BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE...
...I DO THIS BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS TO LEAD.
I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT WANT TO FOLLOW...

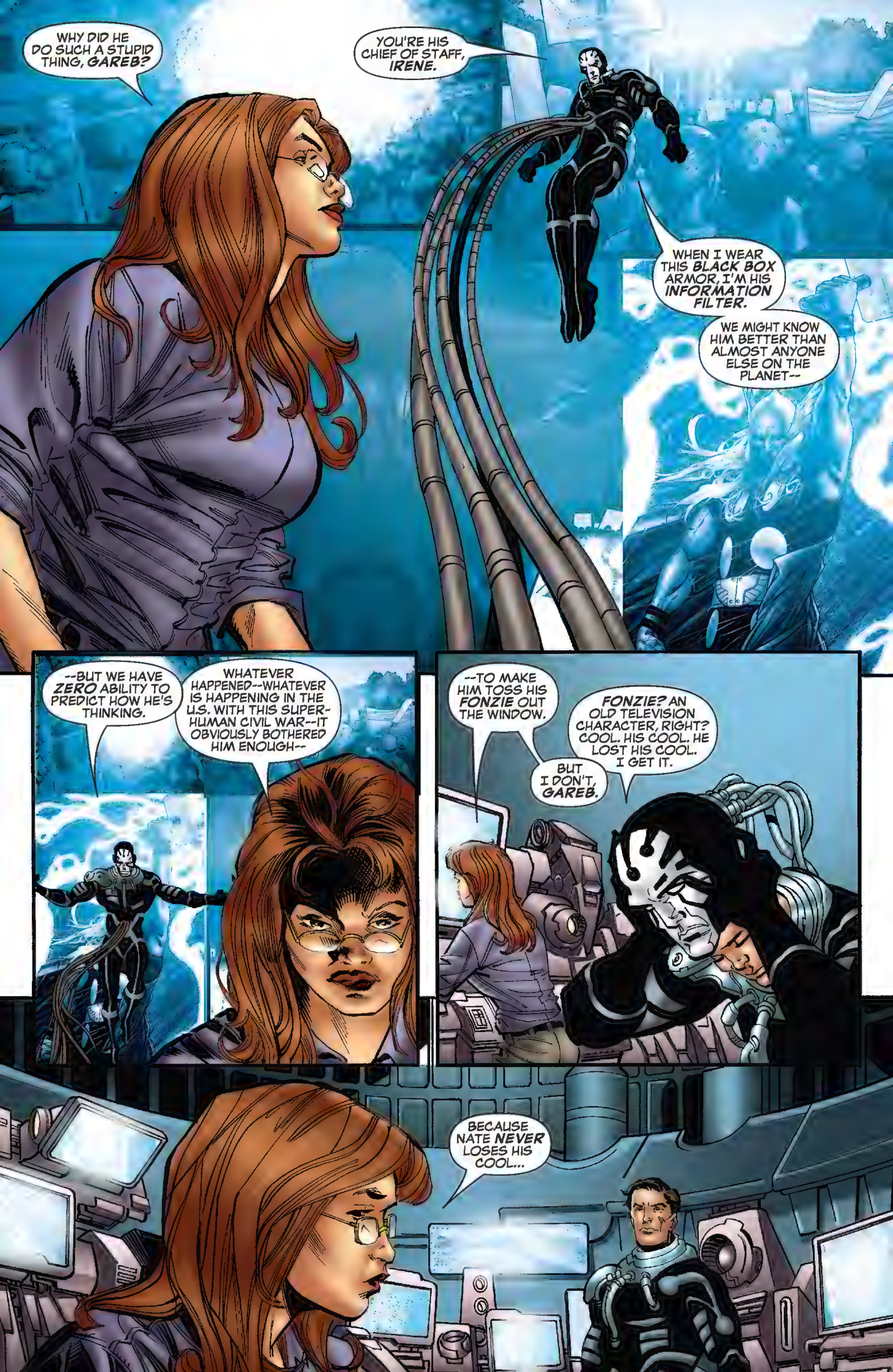

AND THAT ANSWER RIGHT THERE *PROVES* TO ME THAT WE'RE DOIN' THE RIGHT THING.
WE REGULATE NUCLEAR WARHEADS, REGISTER GUNS...FOLKS WITH POWERS HAVE BECOME NO DIFFERENT THAN THAT.

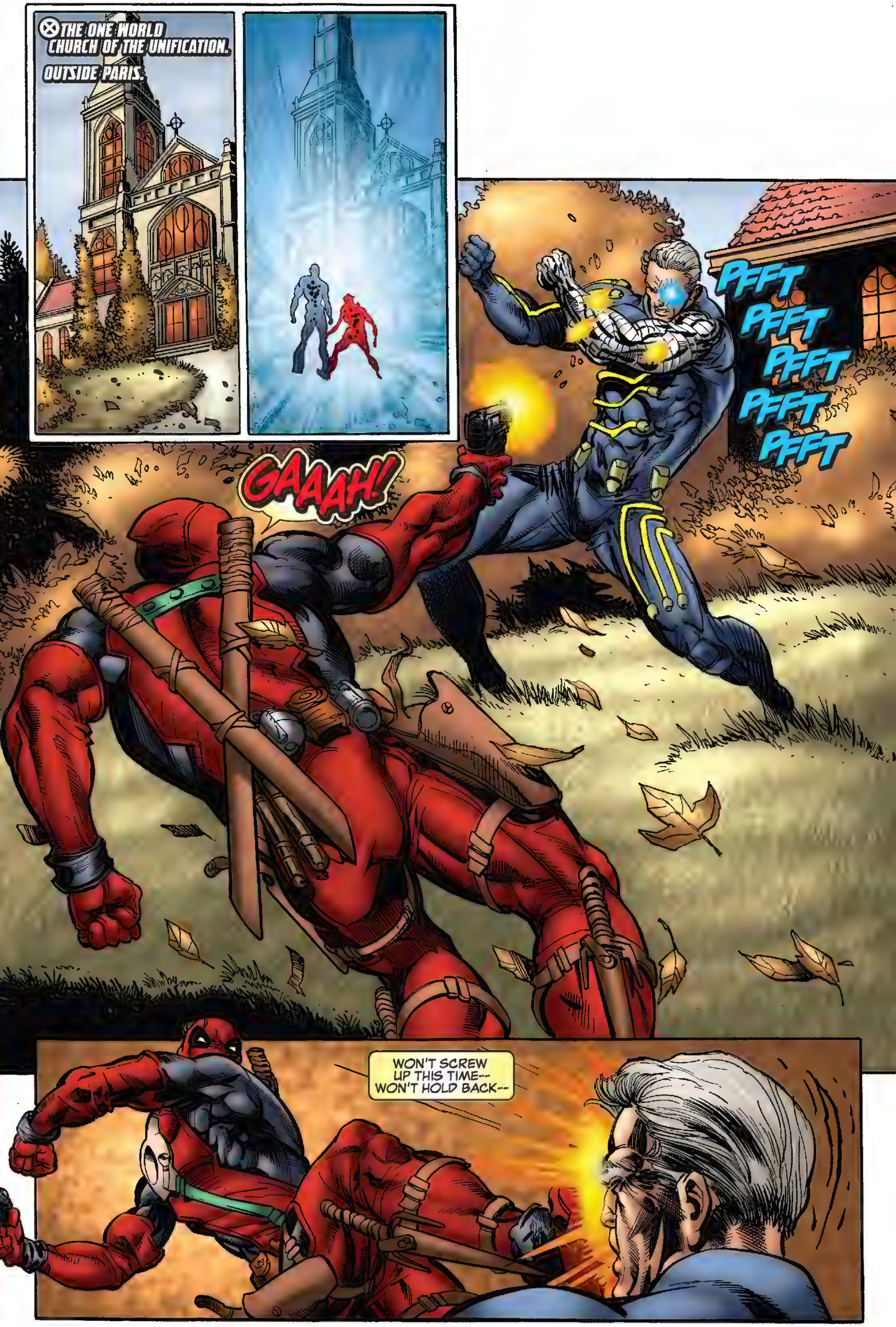

REGISTRATION IS ONLY KEEPING AN *EYE* ON ME. BUT ONCE SOMEONE TELLS ME WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO, THAT'S PUTTING A *GUN* TO MY HEAD.
THEN *REBELLION* BECOMES *SELF-DEFENSE.*
THINK ABOUT THAT, PLEASE, AND I'LL THINK MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID.

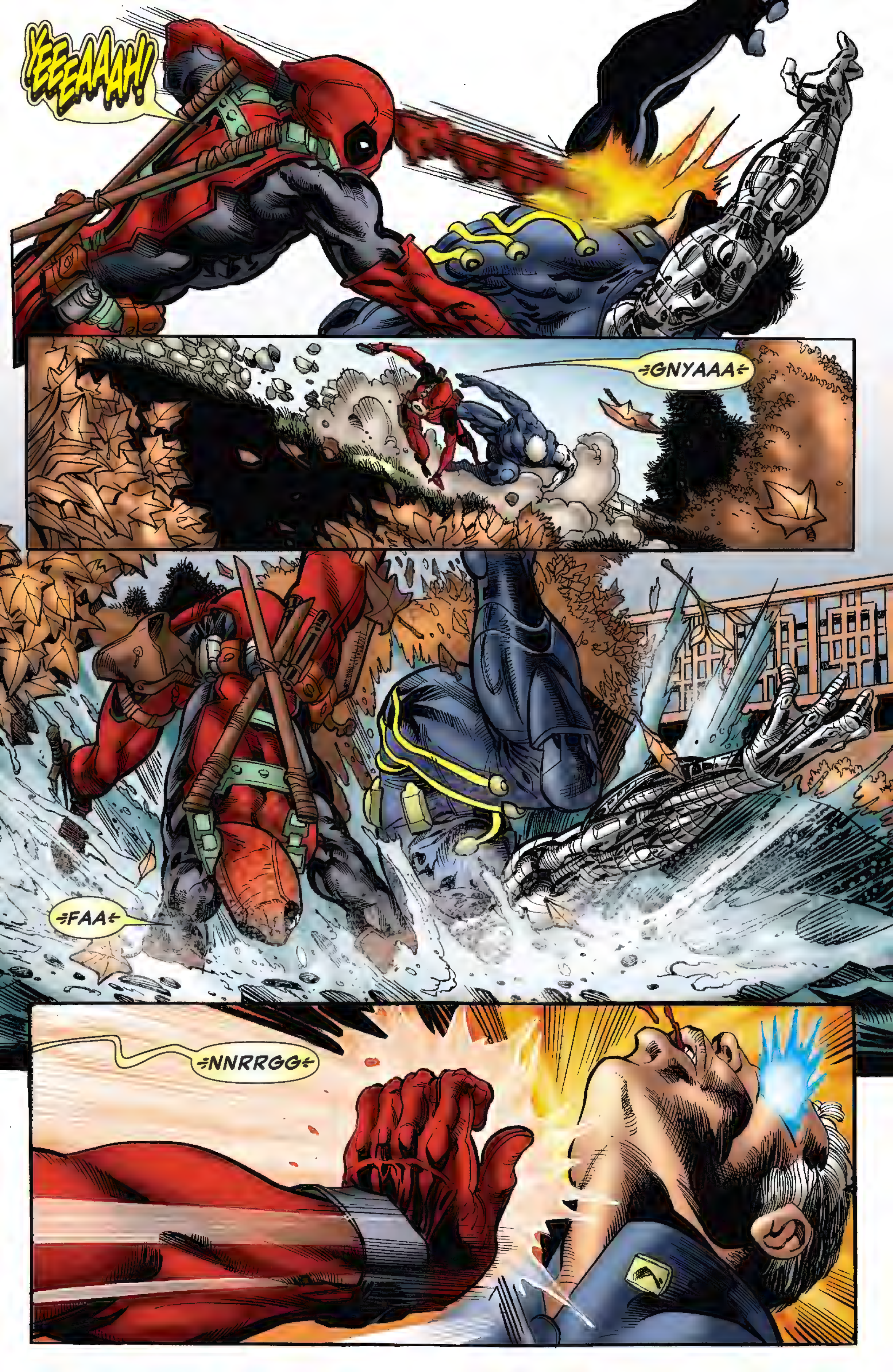

HE TURNED OFF HIS FIELD! ONE SHOT--NOW--
BODYSLIDE BY TWO.
NERTZ.

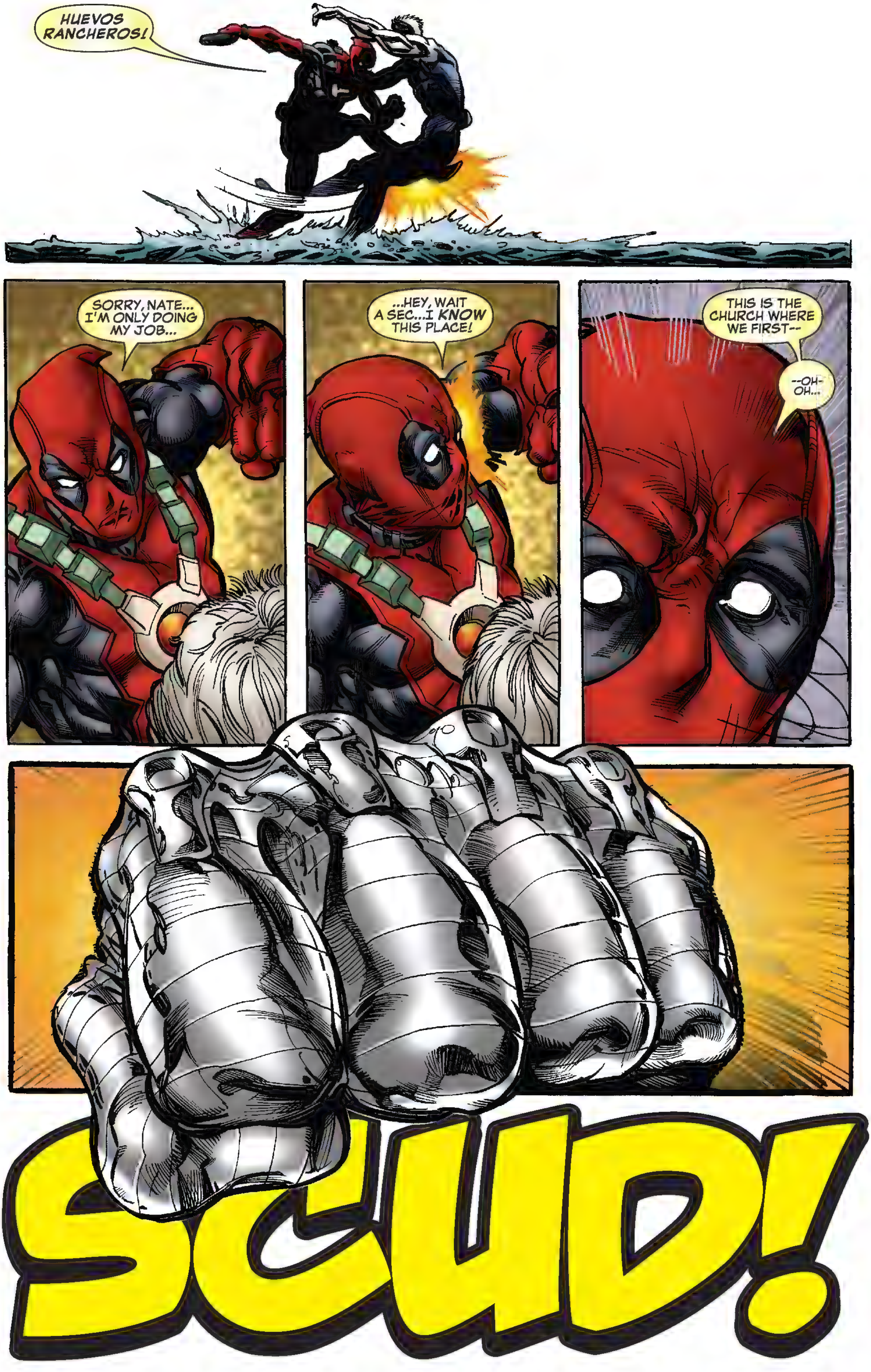

PCHK PCHK PCHK PCHK PCHK PCHK PCHK PCHK PCHK

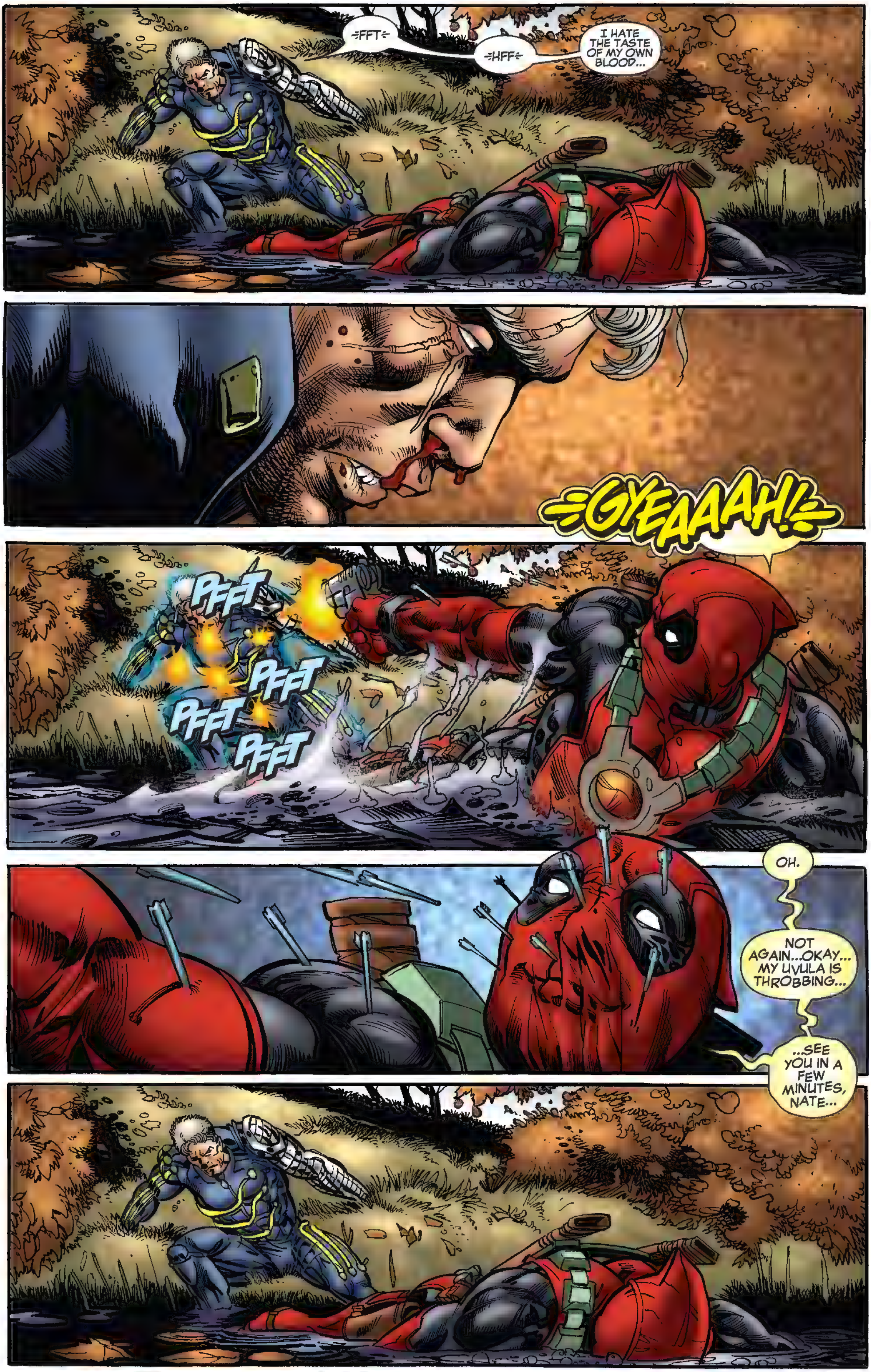

PROVIDENCE. CABLE'S SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND HAVEN.
--CABLE, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED WORLD SAVIOR AND CONTROVERSIAL PRESIDENT OF RUMEKISTAN, THEN--
--THE OVAL OFFICE SUSTAINED HEAVY DAMAGE DURING THE RAMPAGE--
--TELEPORTED OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION--
LIVE
--SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ARE BEING TREATED FOR MINOR INJURIES.
--LEADING MANY TO QUESTION WHY CABLE, WHOSE ACTIONS HAD REMAINED PEACEFUL TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES--
--CONFIRM THE PRESIDENT WAS SAFE AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK, REPLACED BY A LIFE MODEL DECOY--
--AN LMD--PROGRAMMED TO PROVOKE CABLE--
--WOULD CABLE MAKE SUCH A BLATANT ATTACK ON THE DEMOCRACY--
--SIDE WITH THE SUPER-HUMAN FACTION RESISTING THE REGISTRATION ACT--
--CLEAR AGGRESSION AGAINST AMERICA'S INTERESTS--
THIS IS NOT GOOD.

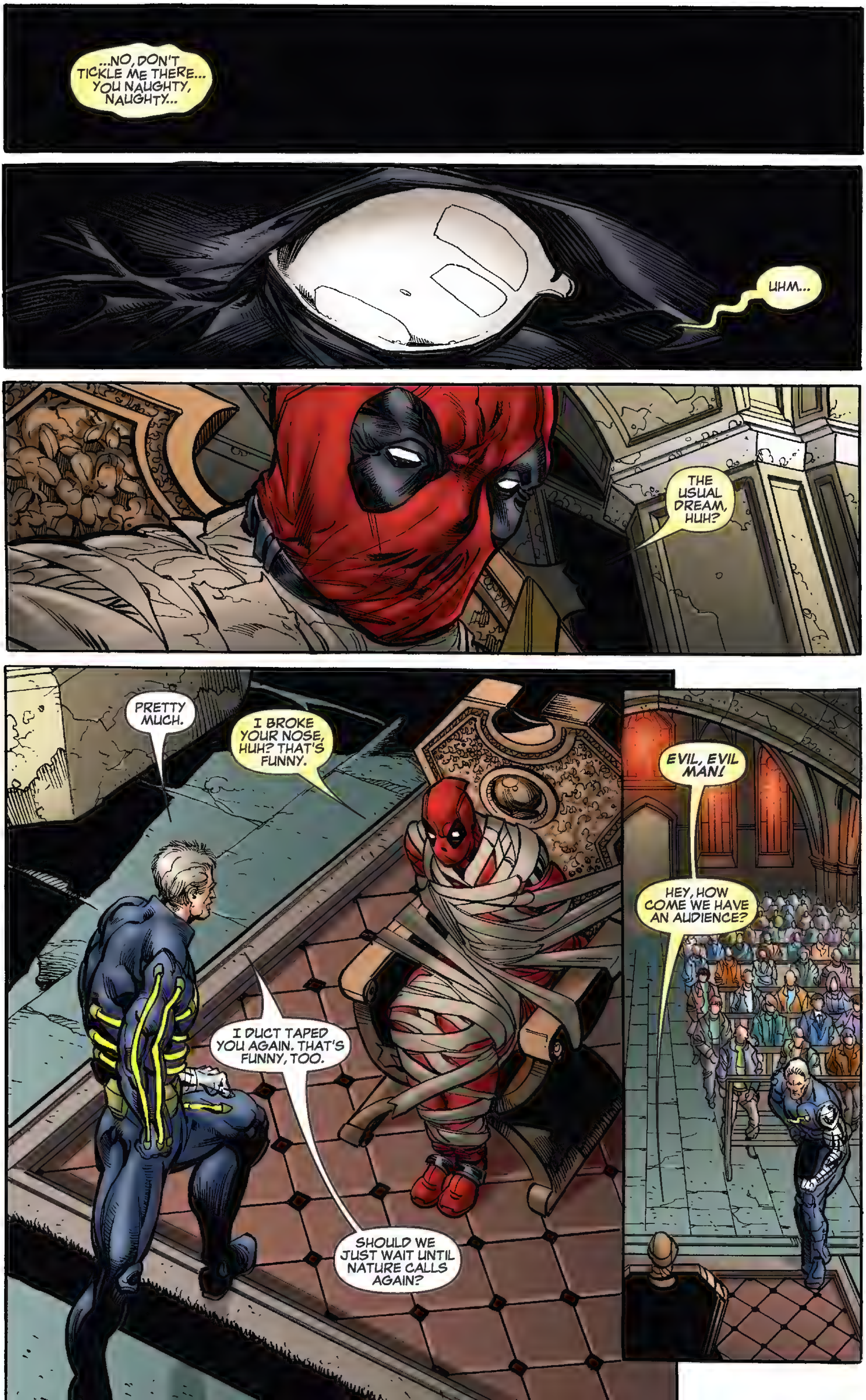

WHY DID HE DO SUCH A STUPID THING, **GAREB?**
YOU'RE HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, **IRENE.**
WHEN I WEAR THIS **BLACK BOX** ARMOR, I'M HIS **INFORMATION FILTER.**
WE MIGHT KNOW HIM BETTER THAN ALMOST ANYONE ELSE ON THE PLANET--
--BUT WE HAVE **ZERO** ABILITY TO PREDICT HOW HE'S THINKING.
WHATEVER HAPPENED--WHATEVER IS HAPPENING IN THE U.S. WITH THIS SUPER-HUMAN CIVIL WAR--IT OBVIOUSLY BOTHERED HIM ENOUGH--
--TO MAKE HIM TOSS HIS **FONZIE** OUT THE WINDOW.
FONZIE? AN OLD TELEVISION CHARACTER, RIGHT? COOL. HIS COOL. HE LOST HIS COOL. I GET IT.
BUT I DON'T, **GAREB.**
BECAUSE NATE **NEVER** LOSES HIS COOL...

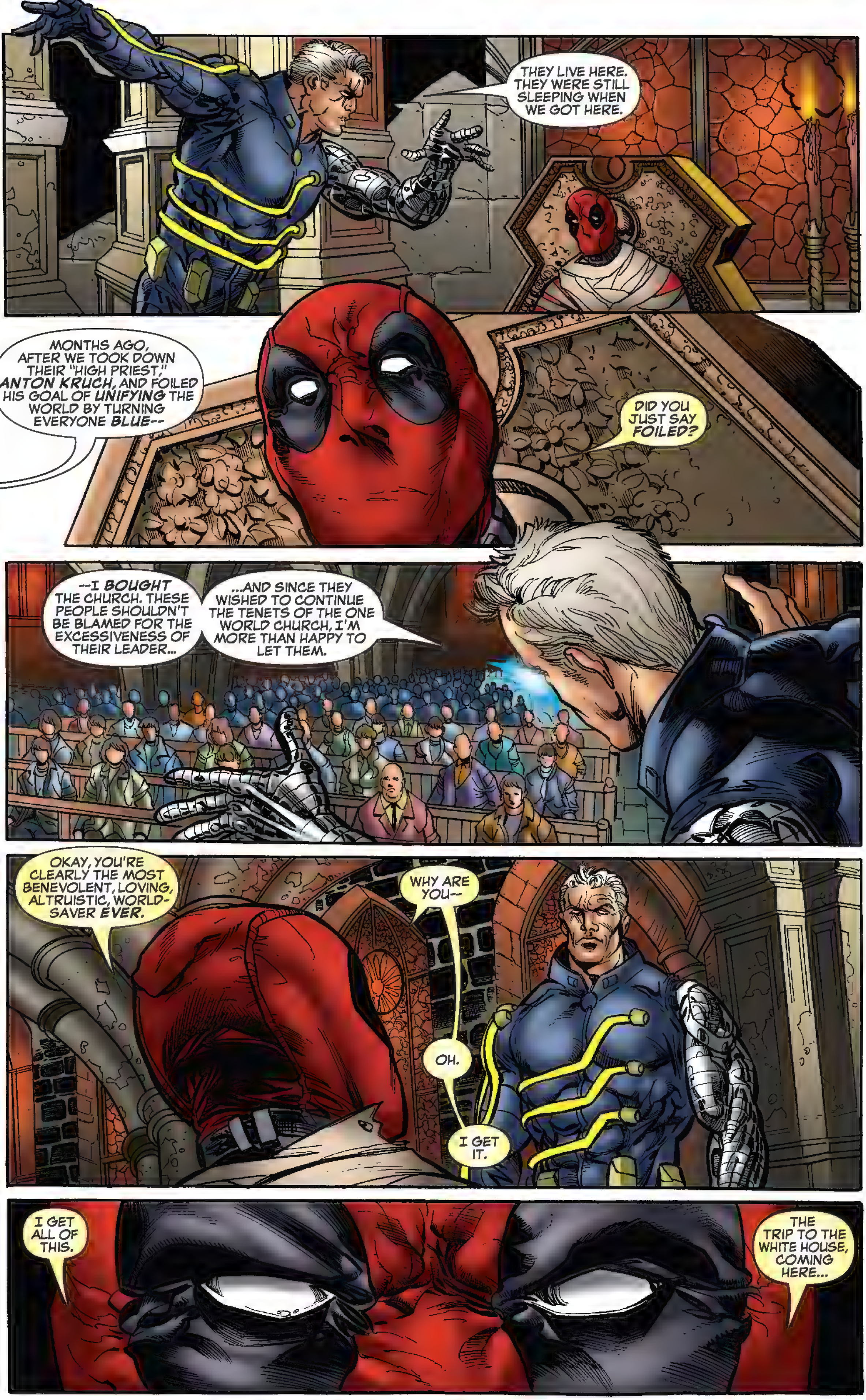

THE ONE WORLD CHURCH OF THE UNIFICATION.
OUTSIDE PARIS.
GAAAH!
PFFT
PFFT
PFFT
PFFT
PFFT
WON'T SCREW UP THIS TIME-- WON'T HOLD BACK--

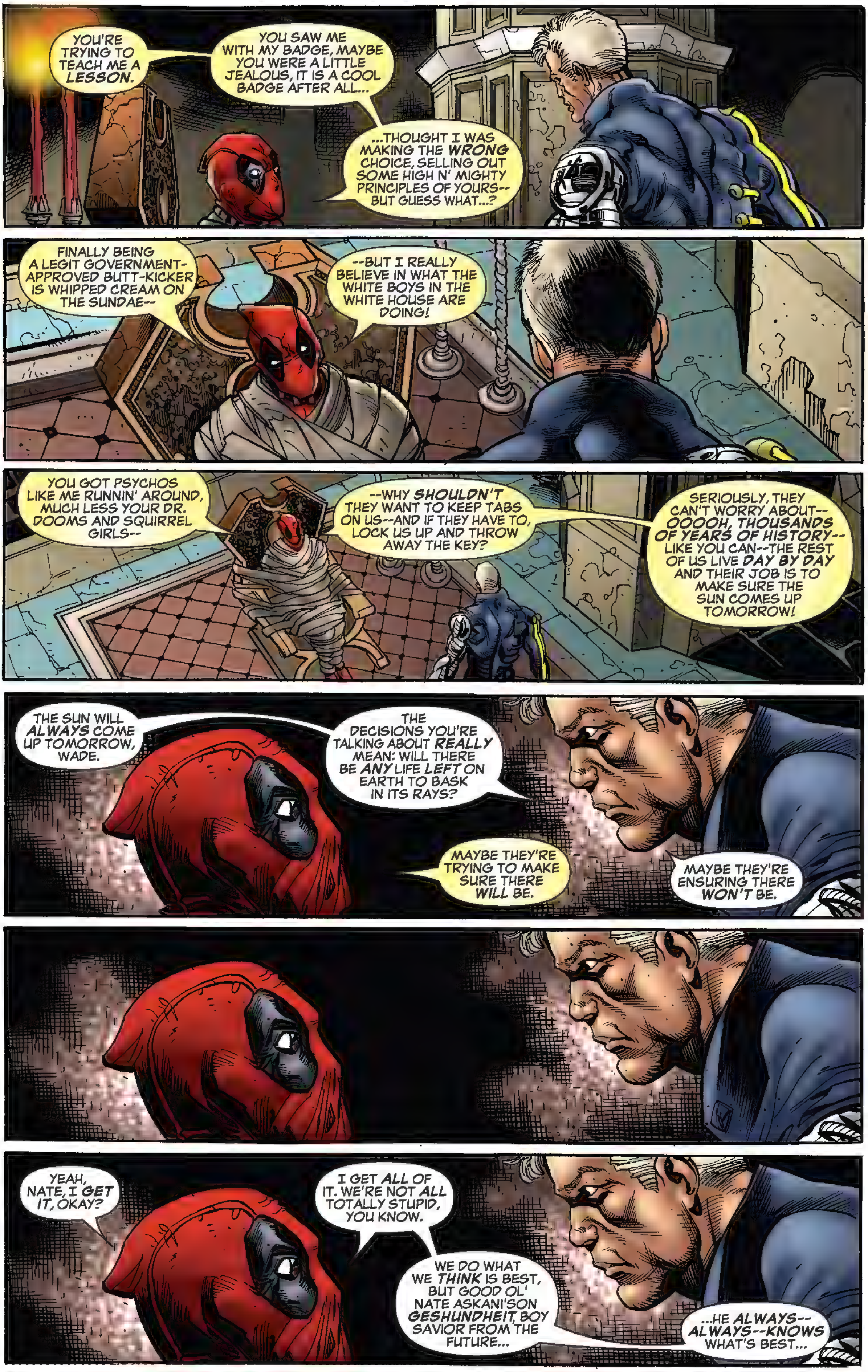

YEEEAAAH!
GNYAAA
FAA
NNRRGG

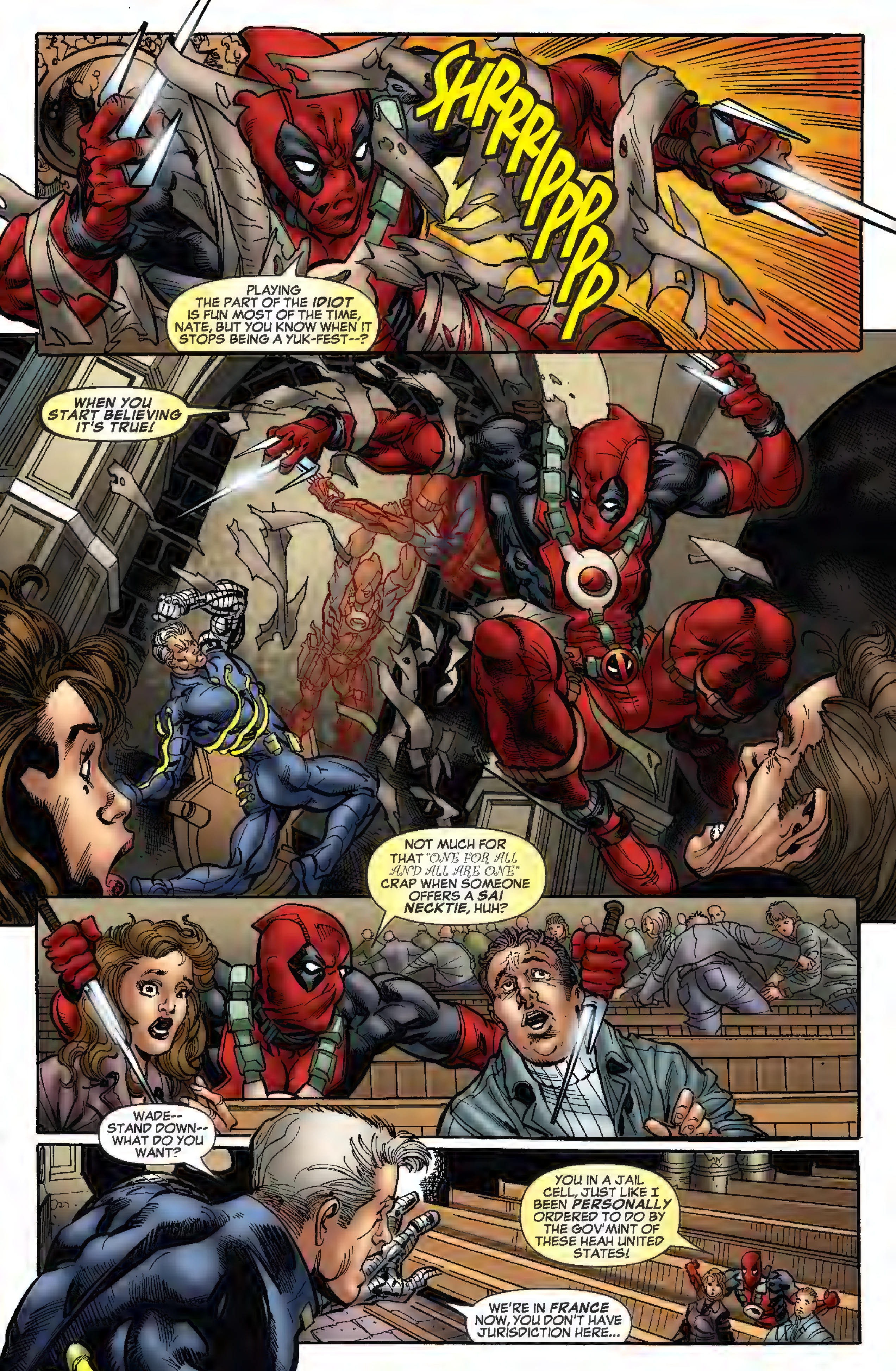

HUEVOS RANCHEROS!
SORRY, NATE... I'M ONLY DOING MY JOB...
...HEY, WAIT A SEC...I *KNOW* THIS PLACE!
THIS IS THE CHURCH WHERE WE FIRST--
--OH-OH...
SCUD!

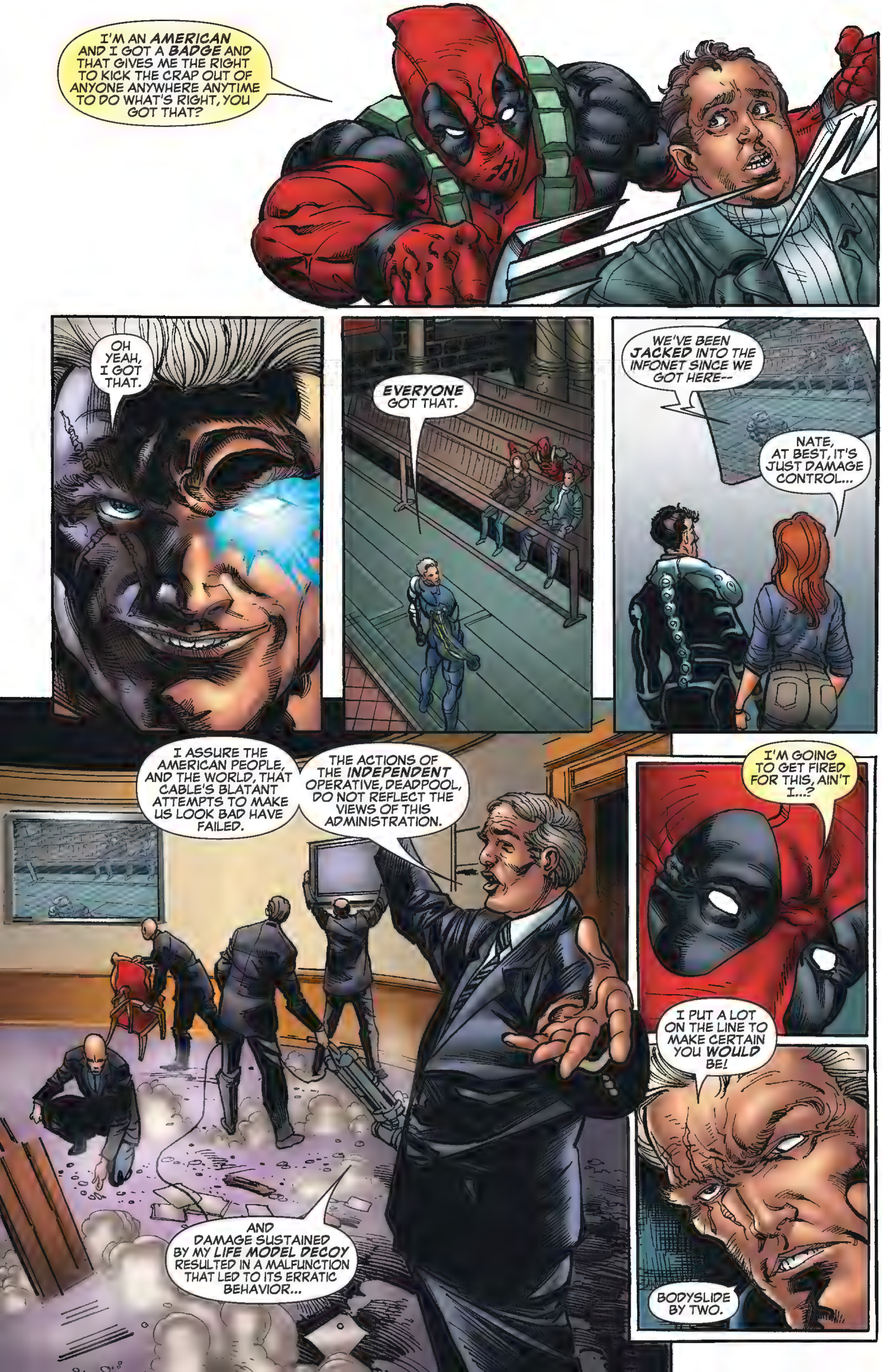

FFT
HFF
I HATE THE TASTE OF MY OWN BLOOD...
GYEAAAH!
PFFT
PFFT
PFFT
PFFT
OH.
NOT AGAIN...OKAY... MY UVULA IS THROBBING...
...SEE YOU IN A FEW MINUTES, NATE...

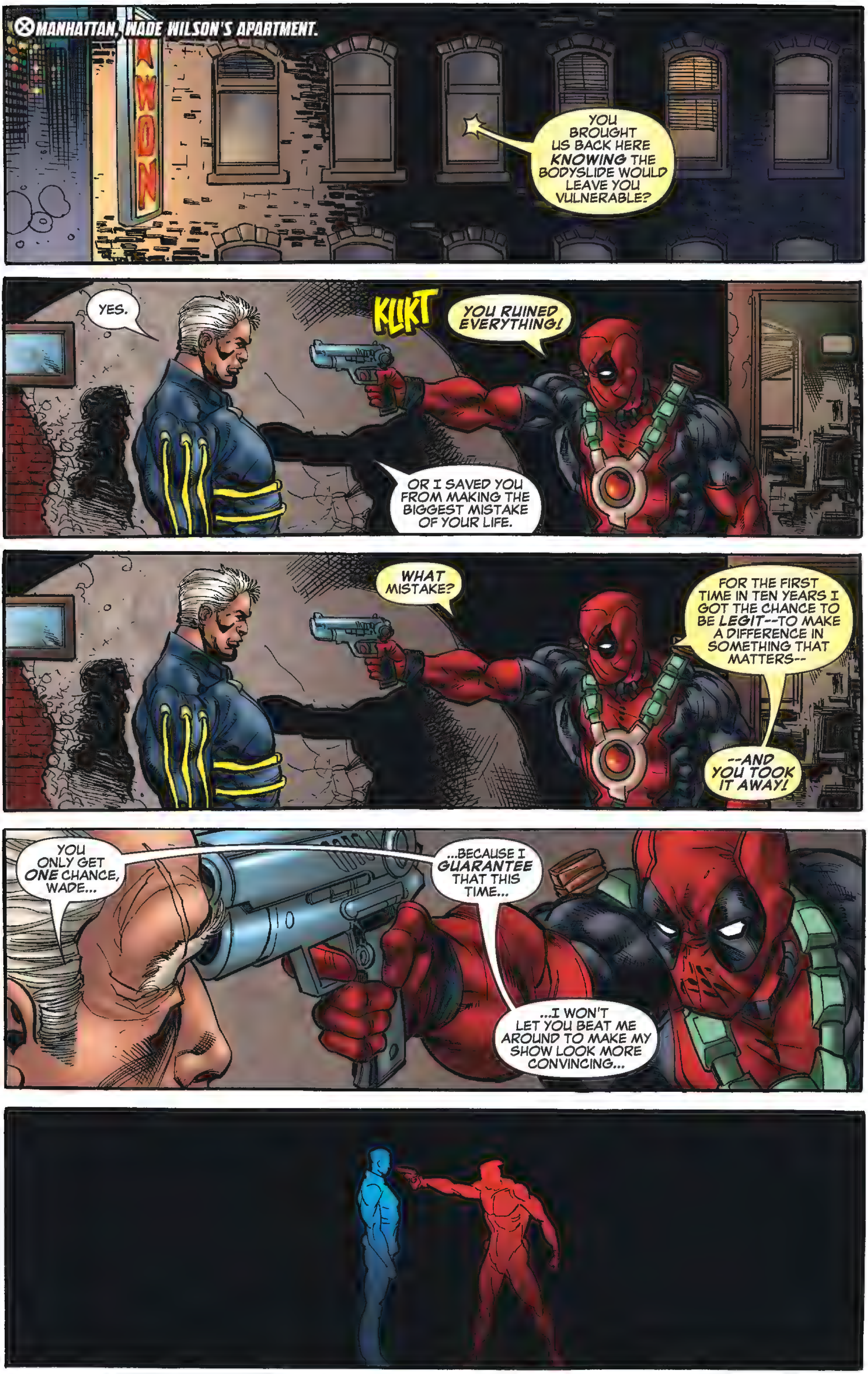

...NO, DON'T TICKLE ME THERE... YOU NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY...
UHM...
THE USUAL DREAM, HUH?
PRETTY MUCH.
I BROKE YOUR NOSE, HUH? THAT'S FUNNY.
I DUCT TAPED YOU AGAIN. THAT'S FUNNY, TOO.
SHOULD WE JUST WAIT UNTIL NATURE CALLS AGAIN?
EVIL, EVIL MAN!
HEY, HOW COME WE HAVE AN AUDIENCE?

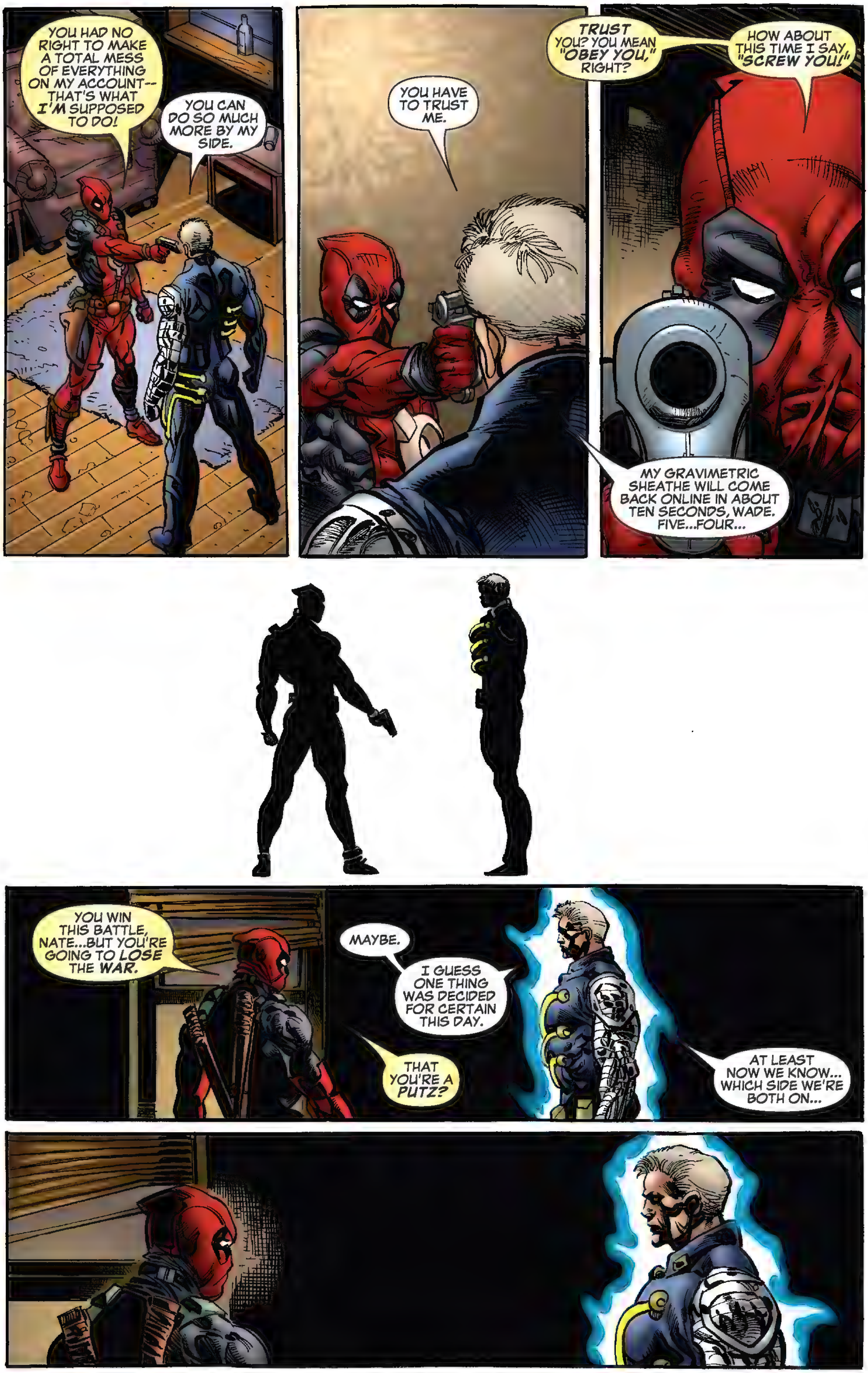

THEY LIVE HERE. THEY WERE STILL SLEEPING WHEN WE GOT HERE.
MONTHS AGO, AFTER WE TOOK DOWN THEIR "HIGH PRIEST," **ANTON KRUCH,** AND FOILED HIS GOAL OF **UNIFYING** THE WORLD BY TURNING EVERYONE **BLUE**--
DID YOU JUST SAY ***FOILED?***
--I **BOUGHT** THE CHURCH. THESE PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BLAMED FOR THE EXCESSIVENESS OF THEIR LEADER...
...AND SINCE THEY WISHED TO CONTINUE THE TENETS OF THE ONE WORLD CHURCH, I'M MORE THAN HAPPY TO LET THEM.
OKAY, YOU'RE CLEARLY THE MOST BENEVOLENT, LOVING, ALTRUISTIC, WORLD-SAVER **EVER.**
WHY ARE YOU--
OH.
I GET IT.
I GET ALL OF THIS.
THE TRIP TO THE WHITE HOUSE, COMING HERE...


YOU'RE TRYING TO TEACH ME A **LESSON.**
YOU SAW ME WITH MY BADGE, MAYBE YOU WERE A LITTLE JEALOUS, IT IS A COOL BADGE AFTER ALL...
...THOUGHT I WAS MAKING THE **WRONG** CHOICE, SELLING OUT SOME HIGH N' MIGHTY PRINCIPLES OF YOURS-- BUT GUESS WHAT...?
FINALLY BEING A LEGIT GOVERNMENT-APPROVED BUTT-KICKER IS WHIPPED CREAM ON THE SUNDAE--
--BUT I REALLY BELIEVE IN WHAT THE WHITE BOYS IN THE WHITE HOUSE ARE DOING!
YOU GOT PSYCHOS LIKE ME RUNNIN' AROUND, MUCH LESS YOUR DR. DOOMS AND SQUIRREL GIRLS--
--WHY **SHOULDN'T** THEY WANT TO KEEP TABS ON US--AND IF THEY HAVE TO, LOCK US UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY?
SERIOUSLY, THEY CAN'T WORRY ABOUT-- ***OOOOH, THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HISTORY***-- LIKE YOU CAN--THE REST OF US LIVE ***DAY BY DAY*** AND THEIR JOB IS TO MAKE SURE THE SUN COMES UP TOMORROW!
THE SUN WILL ***ALWAYS*** COME UP TOMORROW, WADE.
THE DECISIONS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ***REALLY*** MEAN: WILL THERE BE ***ANY*** LIFE ***LEFT*** ON EARTH TO BASK IN ITS RAYS?
MAYBE THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE SURE THERE ***WILL*** BE.
MAYBE THEY'RE ENSURING THERE ***WON'T*** BE.
YEAH, NATE, I ***GET IT***, OKAY?
I GET ***ALL*** OF IT. WE'RE NOT ***ALL*** TOTALLY STUPID, YOU KNOW.
WE DO WHAT WE ***THINK*** IS BEST, BUT GOOD OL' NATE ASKANI'SON ***GESHUNDHEIT***, BOY SAVIOR FROM THE FUTURE...
...HE ***ALWAYS***-- ***ALWAYS***--***KNOWS*** WHAT'S BEST...

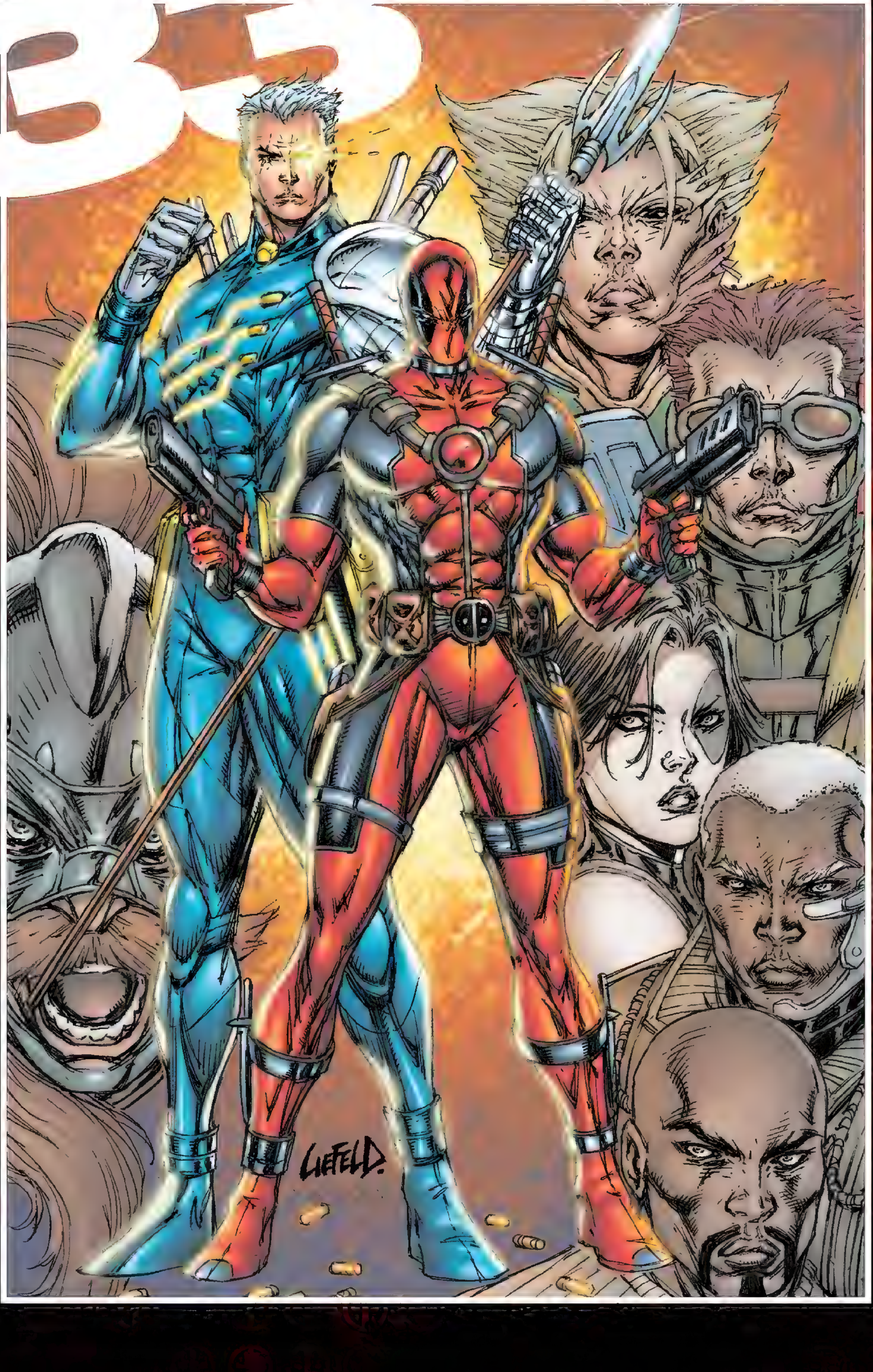

SHRRIPPPPP
PLAYING THE PART OF THE *IDIOT* IS FUN MOST OF THE TIME, NATE, BUT YOU KNOW WHEN IT STOPS BEING A YUK-FEST--?
WHEN YOU START BELIEVING IT'S TRUE!
NOT MUCH FOR THAT *"ONE FOR ALL AND ALL ARE ONE"* CRAP WHEN SOMEONE OFFERS A **SAI NECKTIE,** HUH?
WADE-- STAND DOWN-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU IN A JAIL CELL, JUST LIKE I BEEN **PERSONALLY** ORDERED TO DO BY THE GOV'MINT OF THESE HEAH UNITED STATES!
WE'RE IN **FRANCE** NOW, YOU DON'T HAVE JURISDICTION HERE...


I'M AN AMERICAN AND I GOT A BADGE AND THAT GIVES ME THE RIGHT TO KICK THE CRAP OUT OF ANYONE ANYWHERE ANYTIME TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT, YOU GOT THAT?
OH YEAH, I GOT THAT.
EVERYONE GOT THAT.
WE'VE BEEN JACKED INTO THE INFONET SINCE WE GOT HERE--
NATE, AT BEST, IT'S JUST DAMAGE CONTROL...
I ASSURE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND THE WORLD, THAT CABLE'S BLATANT ATTEMPTS TO MAKE US LOOK BAD HAVE FAILED.
THE ACTIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT OPERATIVE, DEADPOOL, DO NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.
AND DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY MY LIFE MODEL DECOY RESULTED IN A MALFUNCTION THAT LED TO ITS ERRATIC BEHAVIOR...
I'M GOING TO GET FIRED FOR THIS, AIN'T I...?
I PUT A LOT ON THE LINE TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU WOULD BE!
BODYSLIDE BY TWO.

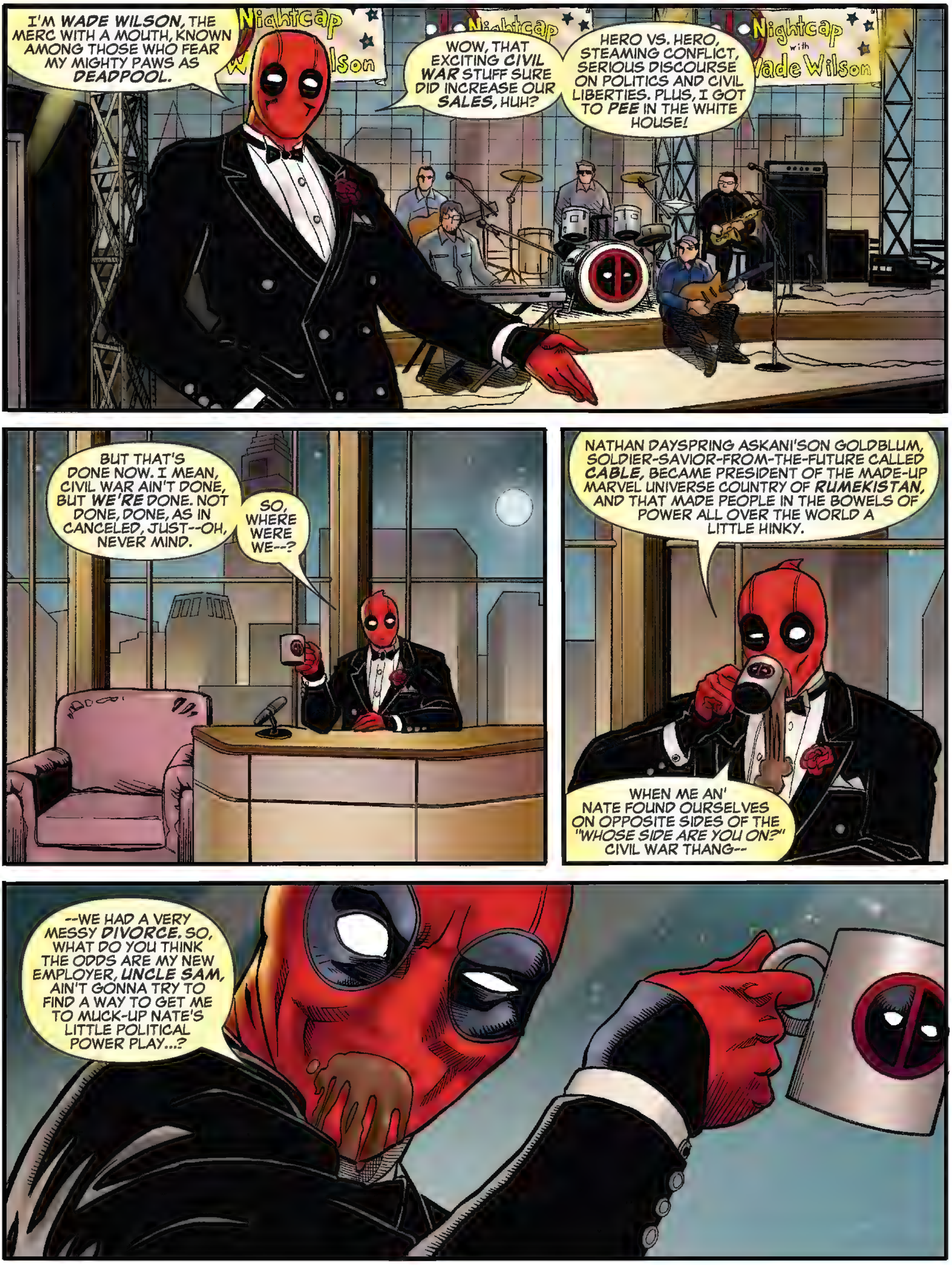

MANHATTAN, WADE WILSON'S APARTMENT.
AWON
YOU BROUGHT US BACK HERE *KNOWING* THE BODYSLIDE WOULD LEAVE YOU VULNERABLE?
YES.
KLIKT
YOU RUINED EVERYTHING!
OR I SAVED YOU FROM MAKING THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR LIFE.
WHAT MISTAKE?
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS I GOT THE CHANCE TO BE *LEGIT*--TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMETHING THAT MATTERS--
--AND YOU TOOK IT AWAY!
YOU ONLY GET *ONE* CHANCE, WADE...
...BECAUSE I *GUARANTEE* THAT THIS TIME...
...I WON'T LET YOU BEAT ME AROUND TO MAKE MY SHOW LOOK MORE CONVINCING...

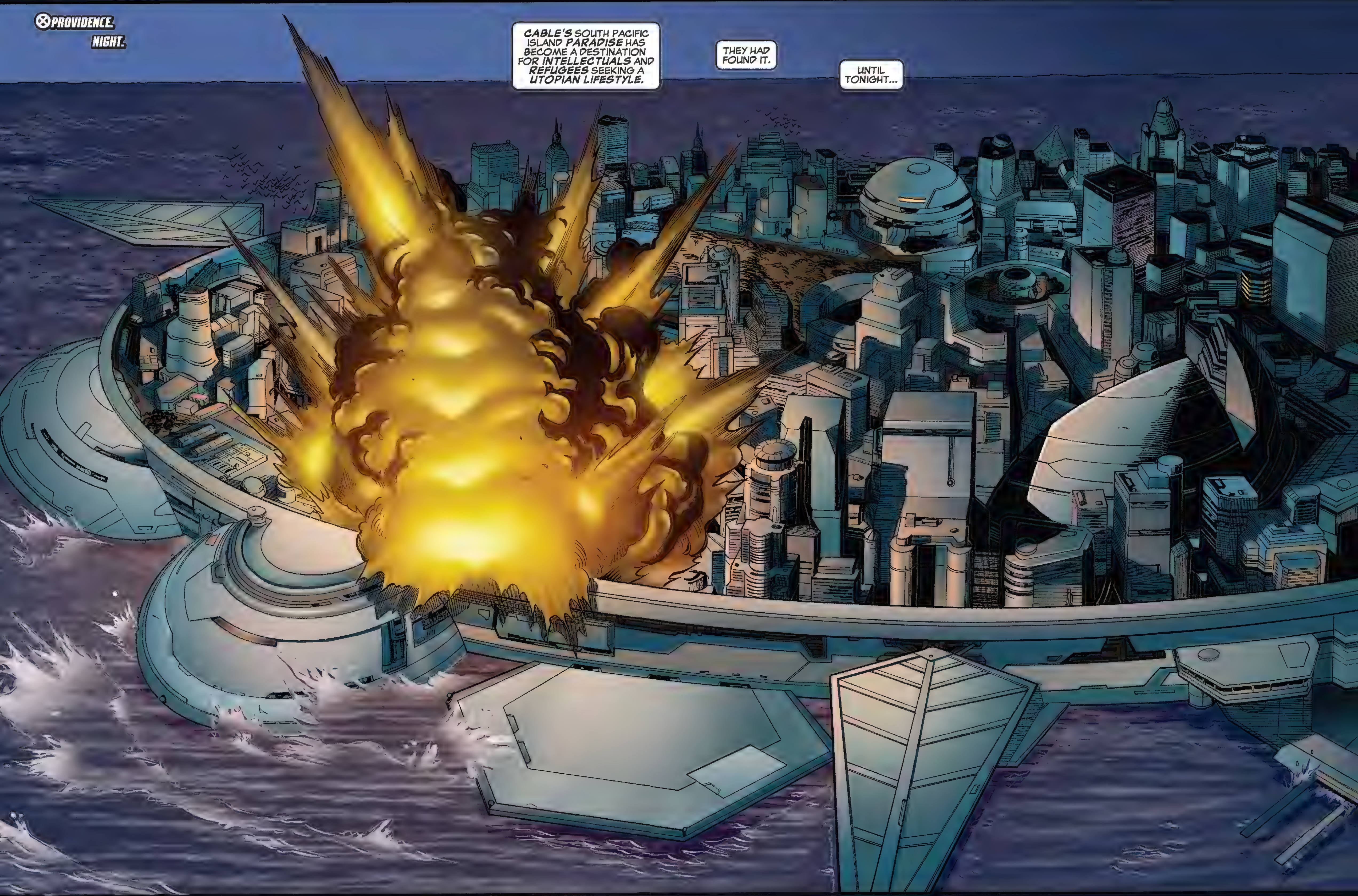

YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO MAKE A TOTAL MESS OF EVERYTHING ON MY ACCOUNT-- THAT'S WHAT *I'M* SUPPOSED TO DO!
YOU CAN DO SO MUCH MORE BY MY SIDE.
YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.
TRUST YOU? YOU MEAN *"OBEY YOU,"* RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT THIS TIME I SAY, *"SCREW YOU!"*
MY GRAVIMETRIC SHEATHE WILL COME BACK ONLINE IN ABOUT TEN SECONDS, WADE. FIVE...FOUR...
YOU WIN THIS BATTLE, NATE...BUT YOU'RE GOING TO *LOSE* THE *WAR.*
MAYBE.
I GUESS ONE THING WAS DECIDED FOR CERTAIN THIS DAY.
THAT YOU'RE A *PUTZ?*
AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW... WHICH SIDE WE'RE BOTH ON...

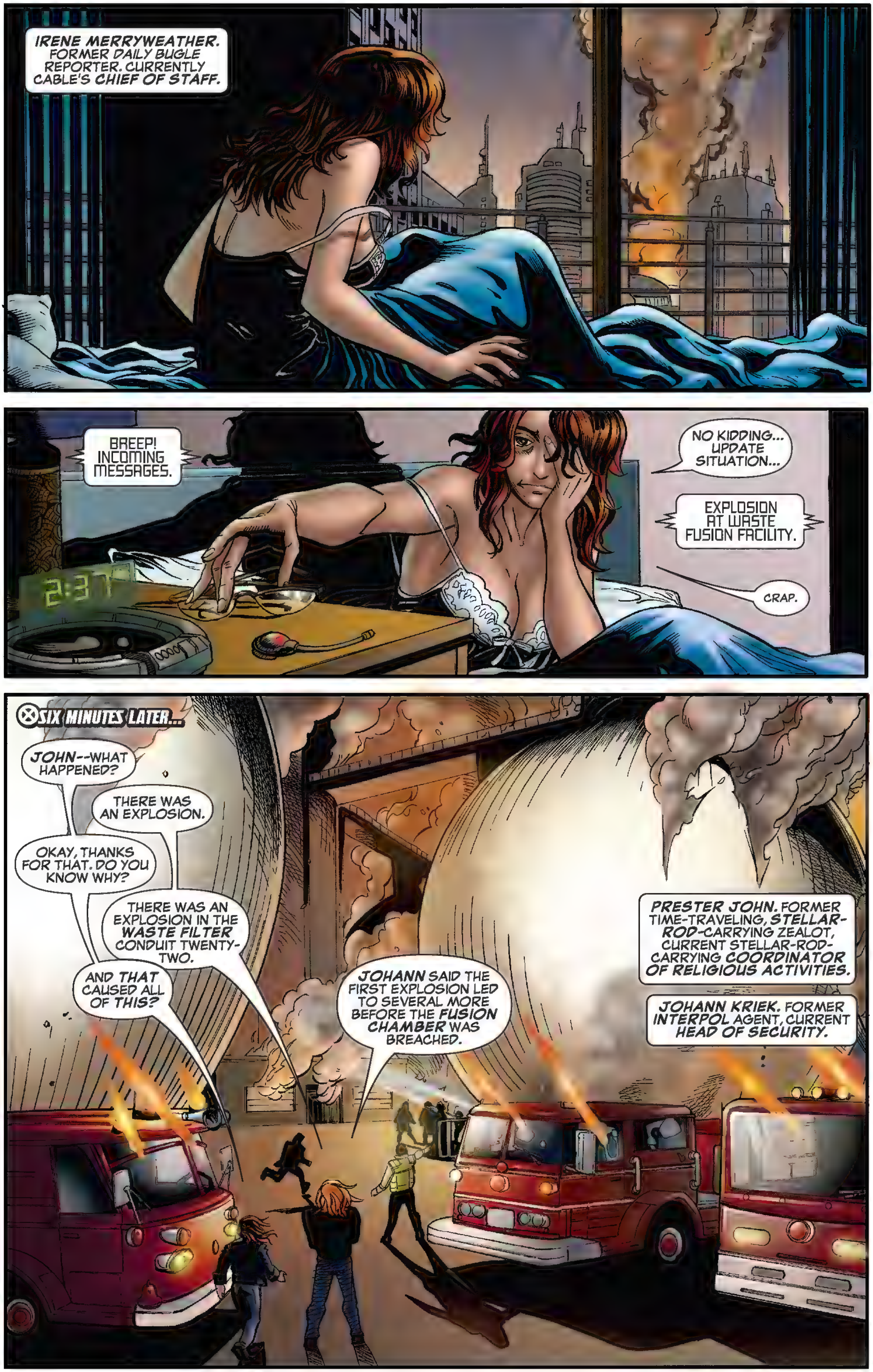
33

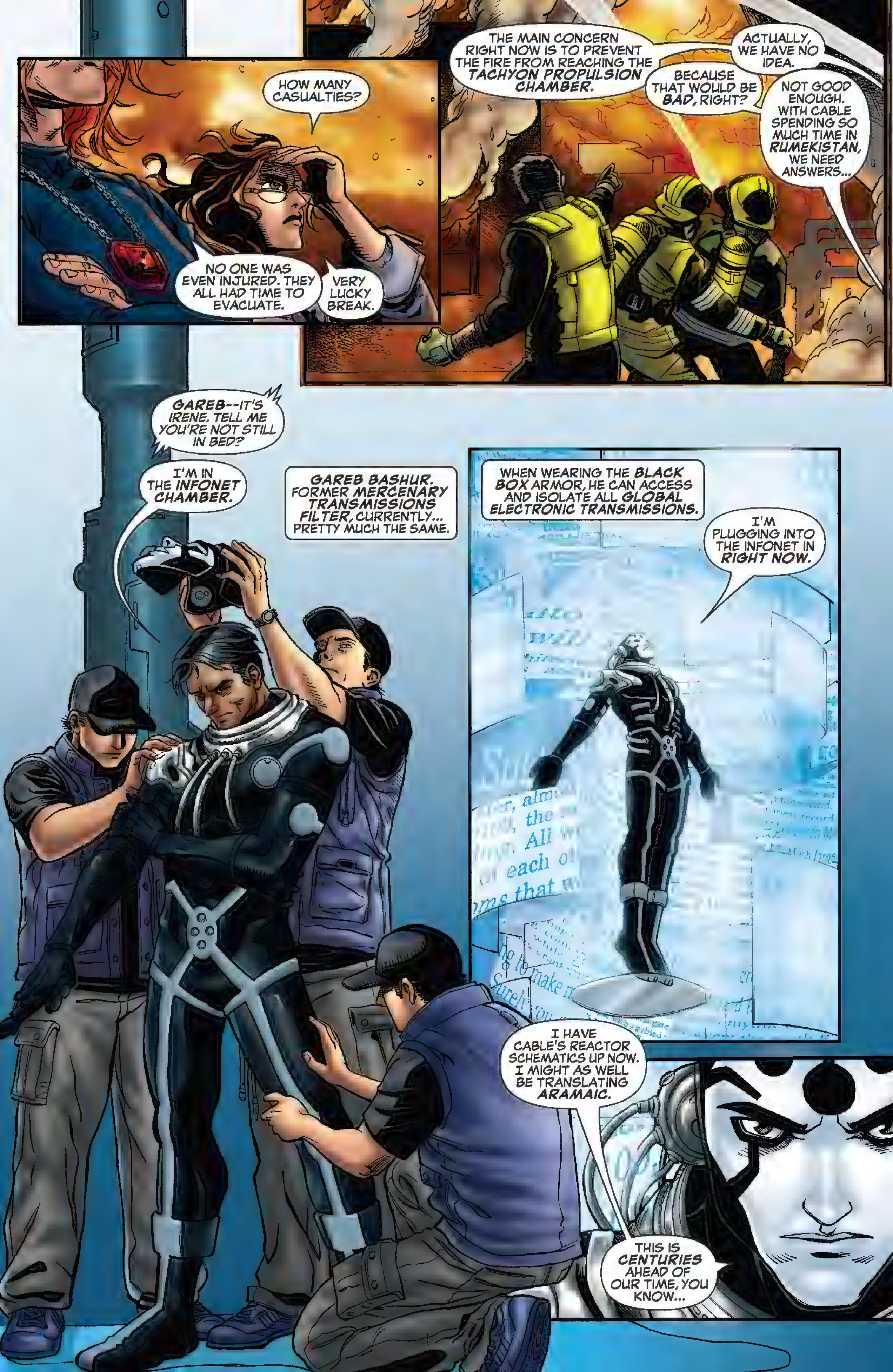


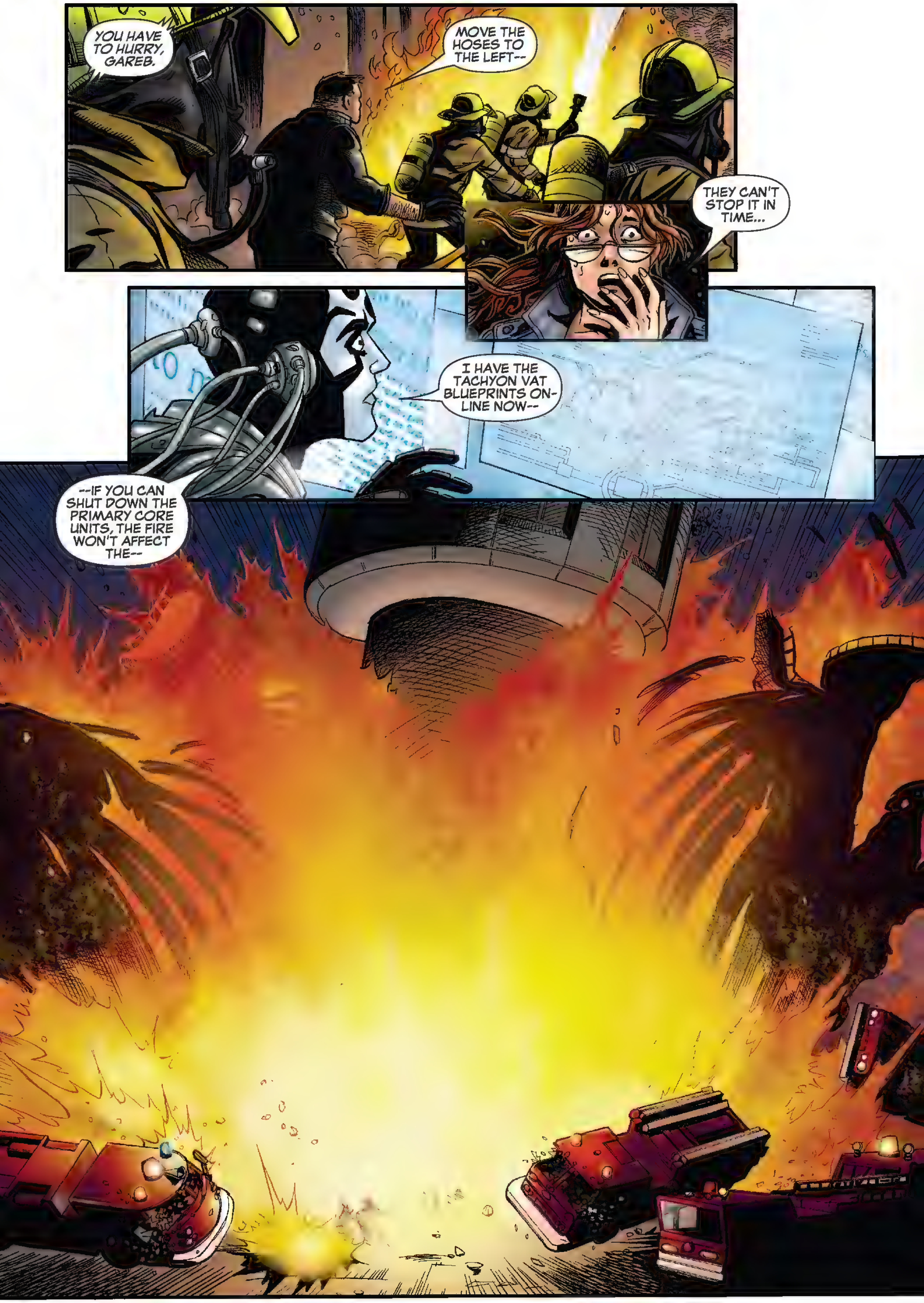
SIX PACKS AND POWDER KEGS

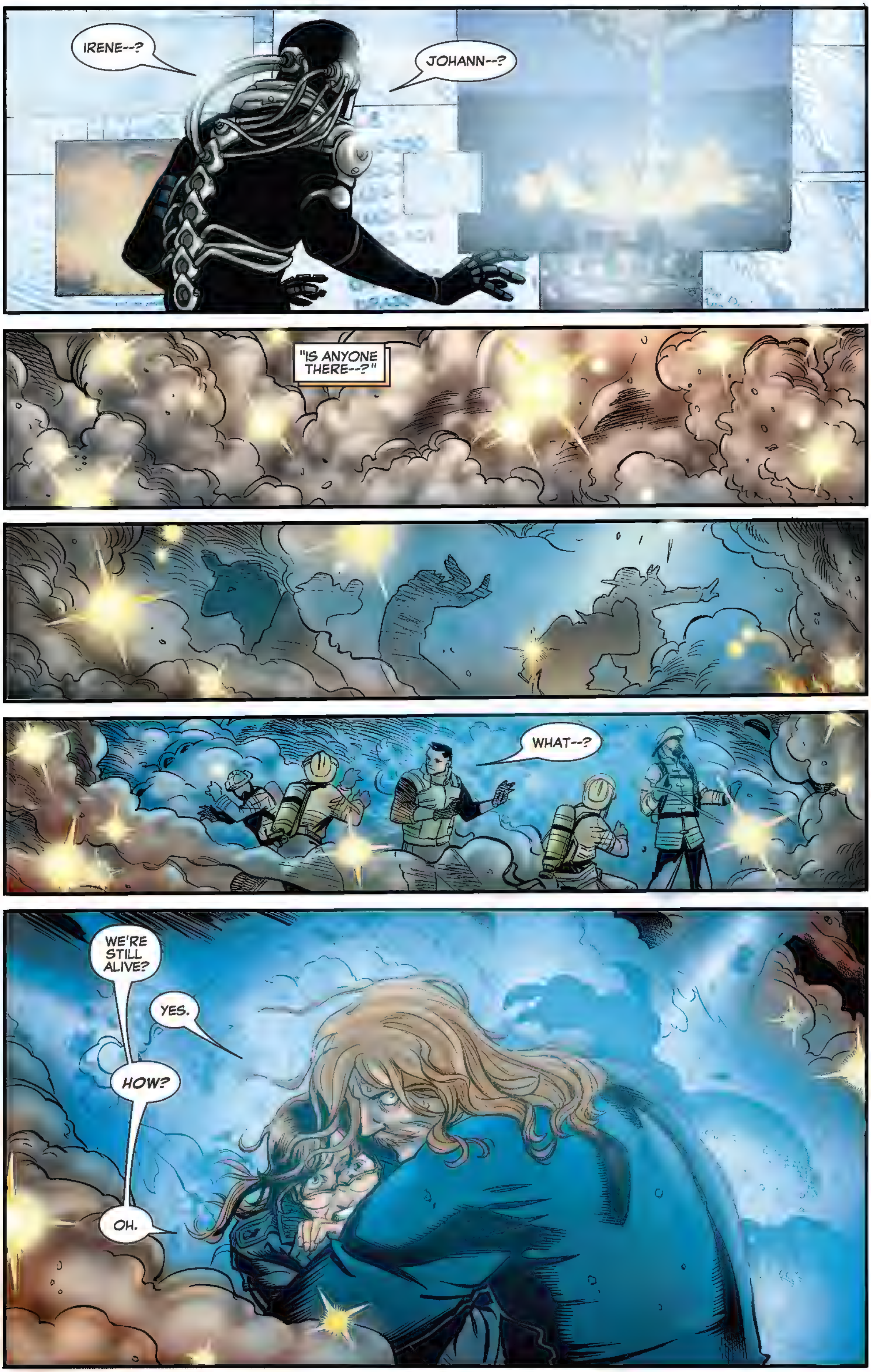

Nightcap with Wade Wilson
I'M WADE WILSON, THE MERC WITH A MOUTH, KNOWN AMONG THOSE WHO FEAR MY MIGHTY PAWS AS DEADPOOL.
WOW, THAT EXCITING CIVIL WAR STUFF SURE DID INCREASE OUR SALES, HUH?
HERO VS. HERO, STEAMING CONFLICT, SERIOUS DISCOURSE ON POLITICS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES. PLUS, I GOT TO PEE IN THE WHITE HOUSE!
BUT THAT'S DONE NOW. I MEAN, CIVIL WAR AIN'T DONE, BUT WE'RE DONE. NOT DONE, DONE, AS IN CANCELED, JUST--OH, NEVER MIND.
SO, WHERE WERE WE--?
NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON GOLDBLUM, SOLDIER-SAVIOR-FROM-THE-FUTURE CALLED CABLE, BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE MADE-UP MARVEL UNIVERSE COUNTRY OF RUMEKISTAN, AND THAT MADE PEOPLE IN THE BOWELS OF POWER ALL OVER THE WORLD A LITTLE HINKY.
WHEN ME AN' NATE FOUND OURSELVES ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE "WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?" CIVIL WAR THANG--
--WE HAD A VERY MESSY DIVORCE. SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ODDS ARE MY NEW EMPLOYER, UNCLE SAM, AIN'T GONNA TRY TO FIND A WAY TO GET ME TO MUCK-UP NATE'S LITTLE POLITICAL POWER PLAY...?

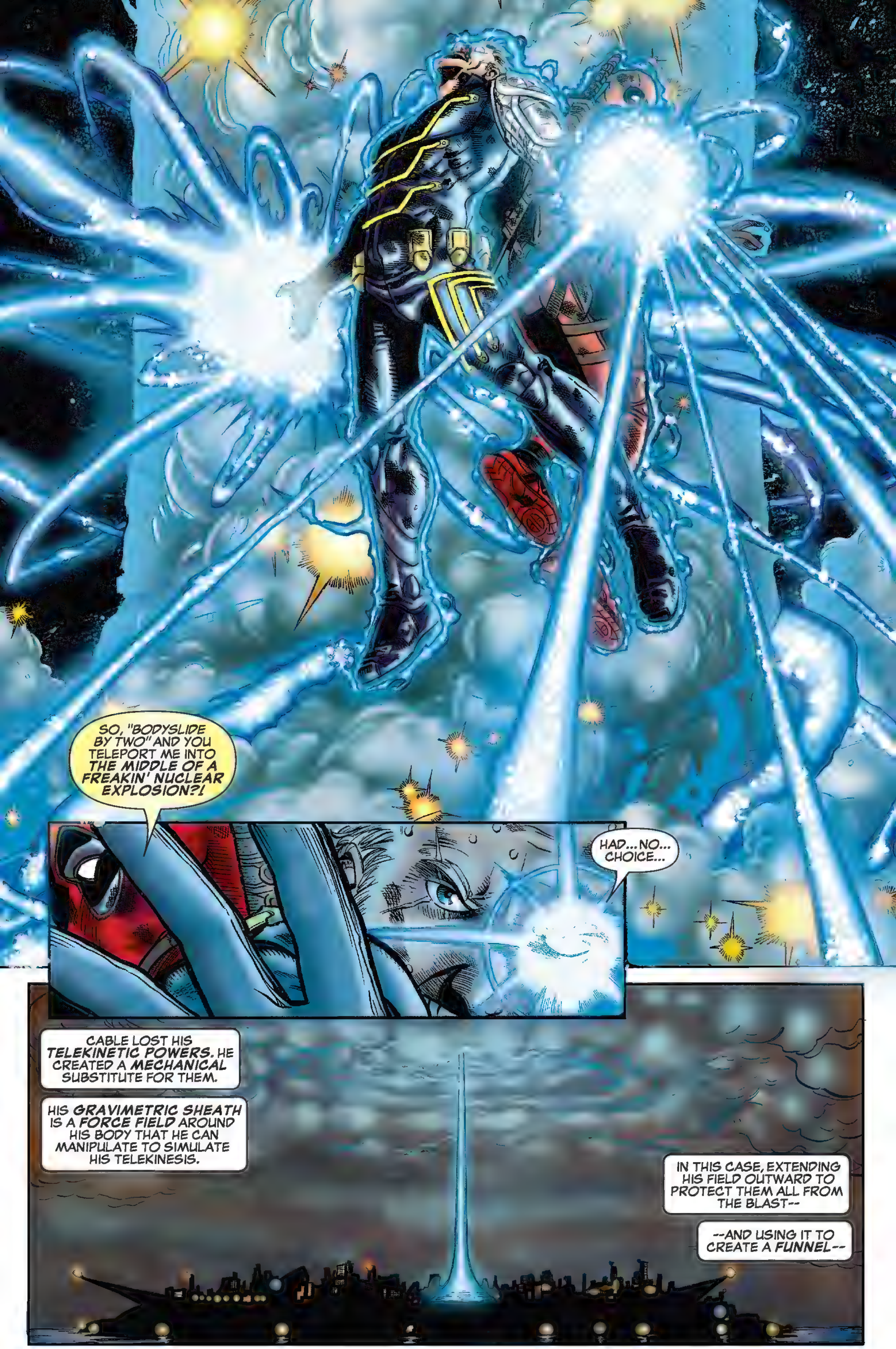

PROVIDENCE.
NIGHT.
CABLE'S SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND PARADISE HAS BECOME A DESTINATION FOR INTELLECTUALS AND REFUGEES SEEKING A UTOPIAN LIFESTYLE.
THEY HAD FOUND IT.
UNTIL TONIGHT...

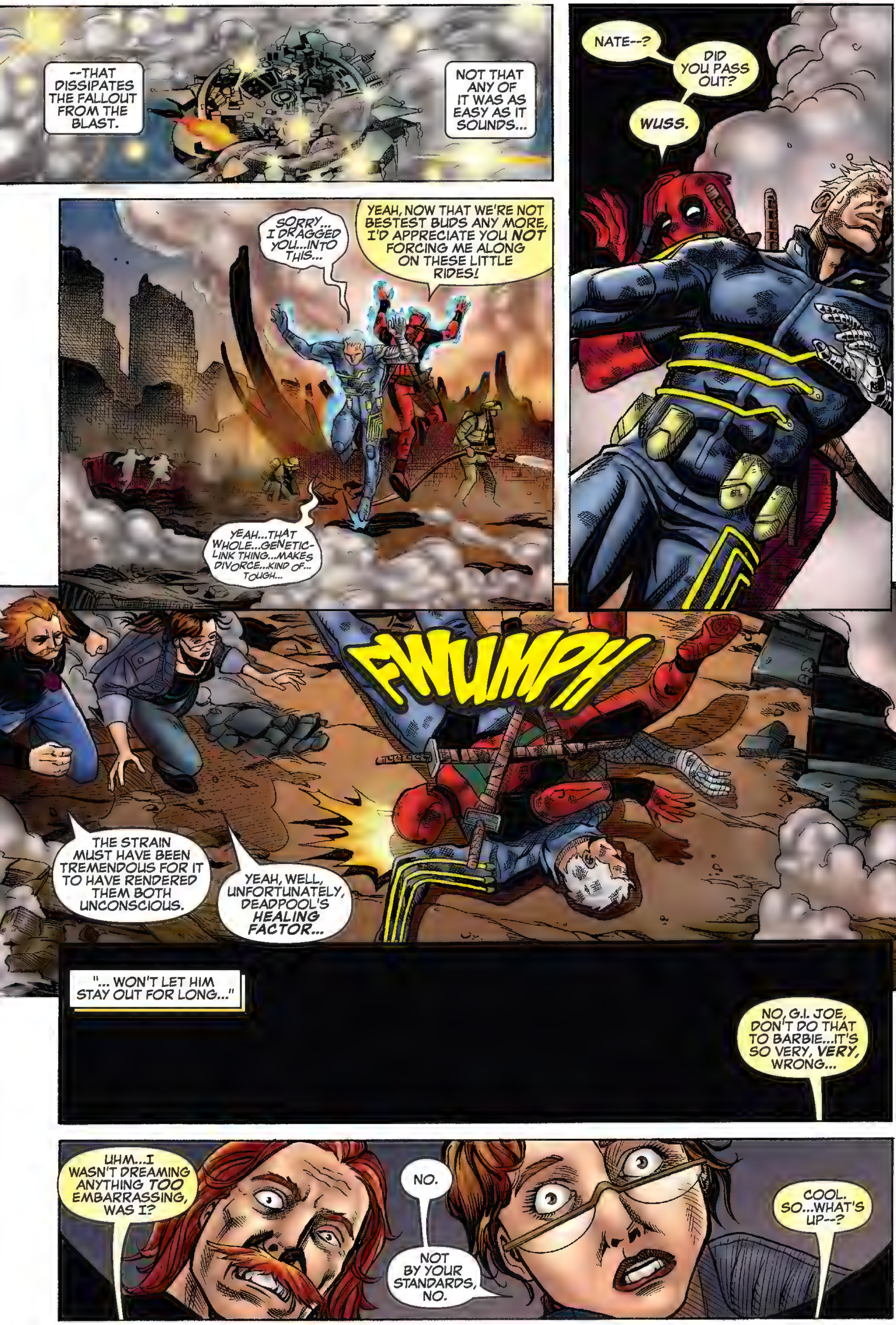

IRENE MERRYWEATHER. FORMER DAILY BUGLE REPORTER. CURRENTLY CABLE'S CHIEF OF STAFF.
BREEP! INCOMING MESSAGES.
NO KIDDING... UPDATE SITUATION...
EXPLOSION AT WASTE FUSION FACILITY.
CRAP.
2:37
SIX MINUTES LATER...
JOHN--WHAT HAPPENED?
THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION.
OKAY, THANKS FOR THAT. DO YOU KNOW WHY?
THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION IN THE WASTE FILTER CONDUIT TWENTY-TWO.
AND THAT CAUSED ALL OF THIS?
JOHANN SAID THE FIRST EXPLOSION LED TO SEVERAL MORE BEFORE THE FUSION CHAMBER WAS BREACHED.
PRESTER JOHN. FORMER TIME-TRAVELING, STELLAR-ROD-CARRYING ZEALOT, CURRENT STELLAR-ROD-CARRYING COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.
JOHANN KRIEK. FORMER INTERPOL AGENT, CURRENT HEAD OF SECURITY.

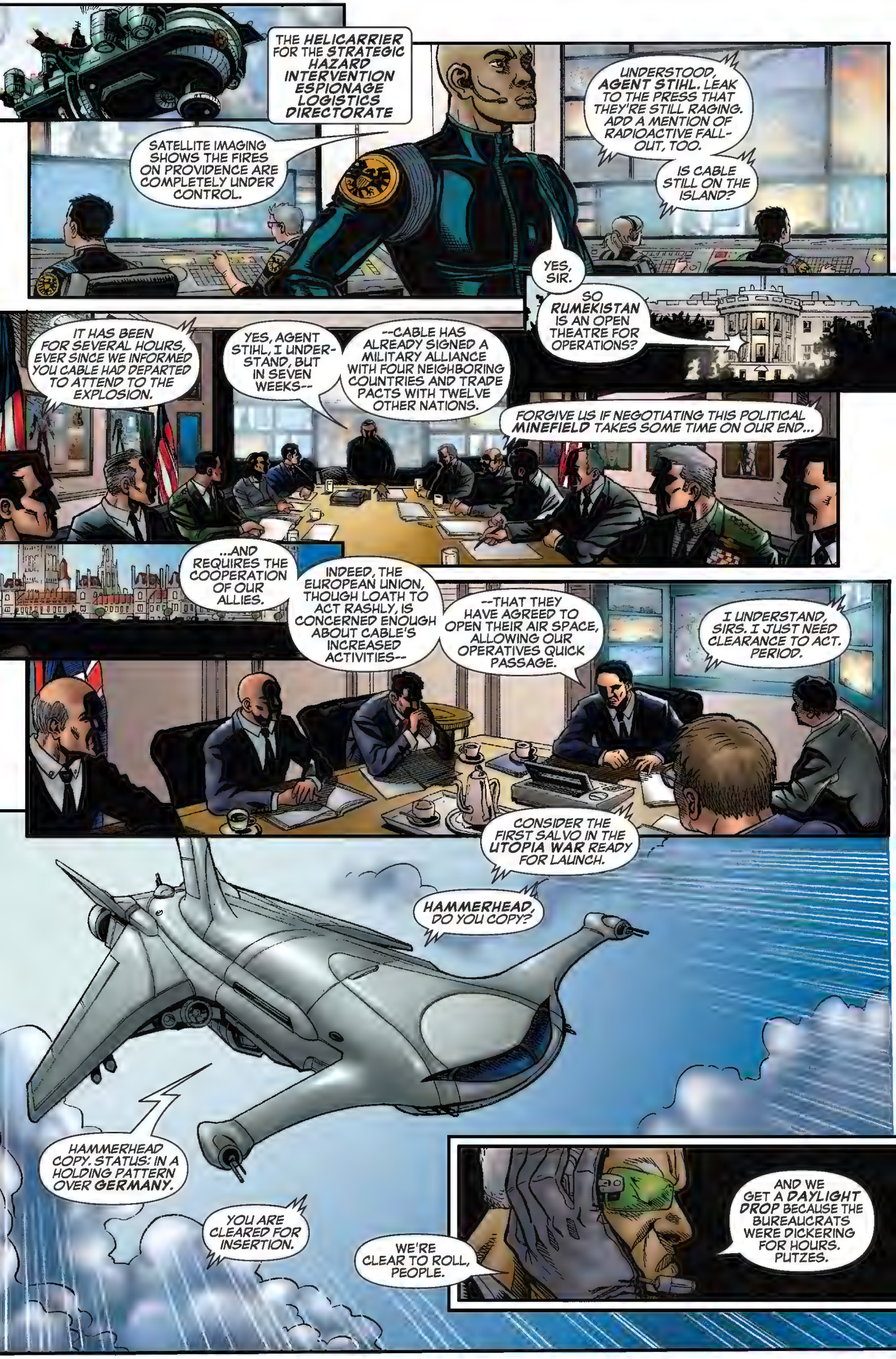

HOW MANY CASUALTIES?
NO ONE WAS EVEN INJURED. THEY ALL HAD TIME TO EVACUATE.
VERY LUCKY BREAK.
THE MAIN CONCERN RIGHT NOW IS TO PREVENT THE FIRE FROM REACHING THE TACHYON PROPULSION CHAMBER.
BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE BAD, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, WE HAVE NO IDEA.
NOT GOOD ENOUGH. WITH CABLE SPENDING SO MUCH TIME IN RUMEKISTAN, WE NEED ANSWERS...
GAREB--IT'S IRENE. TELL ME YOU'RE NOT STILL IN BED?
I'M IN THE INFONET CHAMBER.
GAREB BASHUR. FORMER MERCENARY TRANSMISSIONS FILTER, CURRENTLY... PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.
WHEN WEARING THE BLACK BOX ARMOR, HE CAN ACCESS AND ISOLATE ALL GLOBAL ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS.
I'M PLUGGING INTO THE INFONET IN RIGHT NOW.
I HAVE CABLE'S REACTOR SCHEMATICS UP NOW. I MIGHT AS WELL BE TRANSLATING ARAMAIC.
THIS IS CENTURIES AHEAD OF OUR TIME, YOU KNOW...

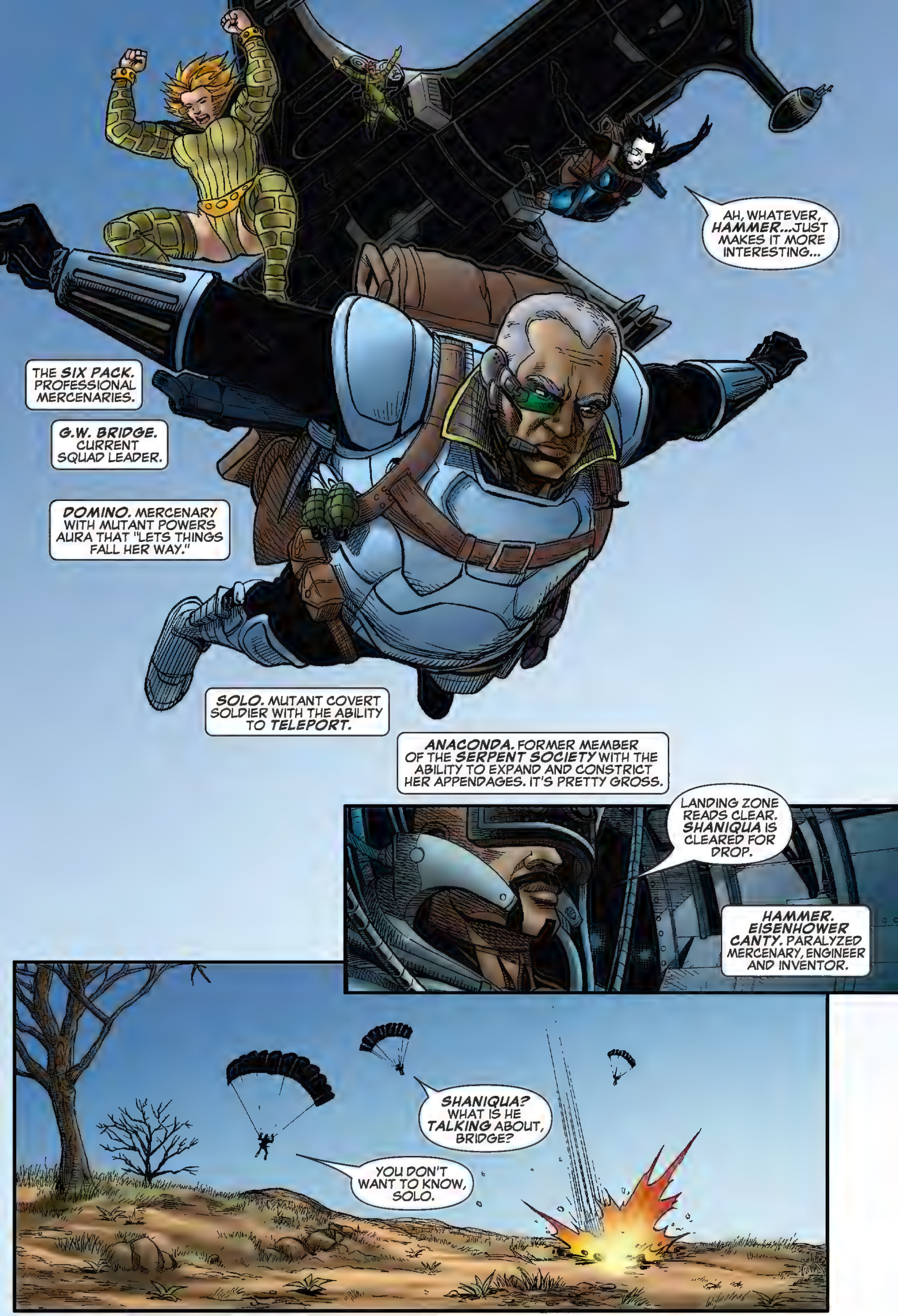

YOU HAVE TO HURRY, GAREB.
MOVE THE HOSES TO THE LEFT--
THEY CAN'T STOP IT IN TIME...
I HAVE THE TACHYON VAT BLUEPRINTS ON-LINE NOW--
--IF YOU CAN SHUT DOWN THE PRIMARY CORE UNITS, THE FIRE WON'T AFFECT THE--

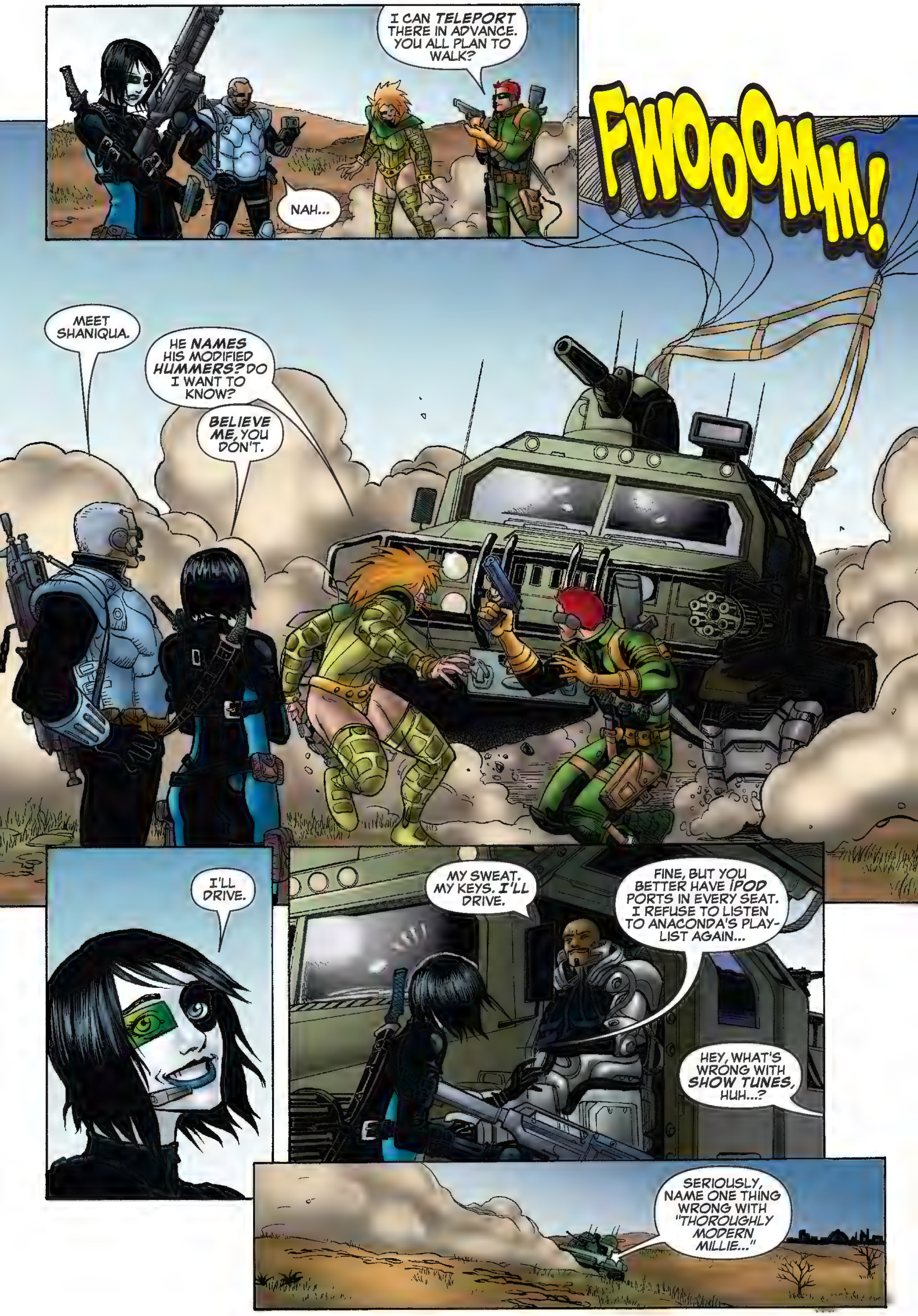

IRENE--?
JOHANN--?
"IS ANYONE THERE--?"
WHAT--?
WE'RE STILL ALIVE?
YES.
HOW?
OH.

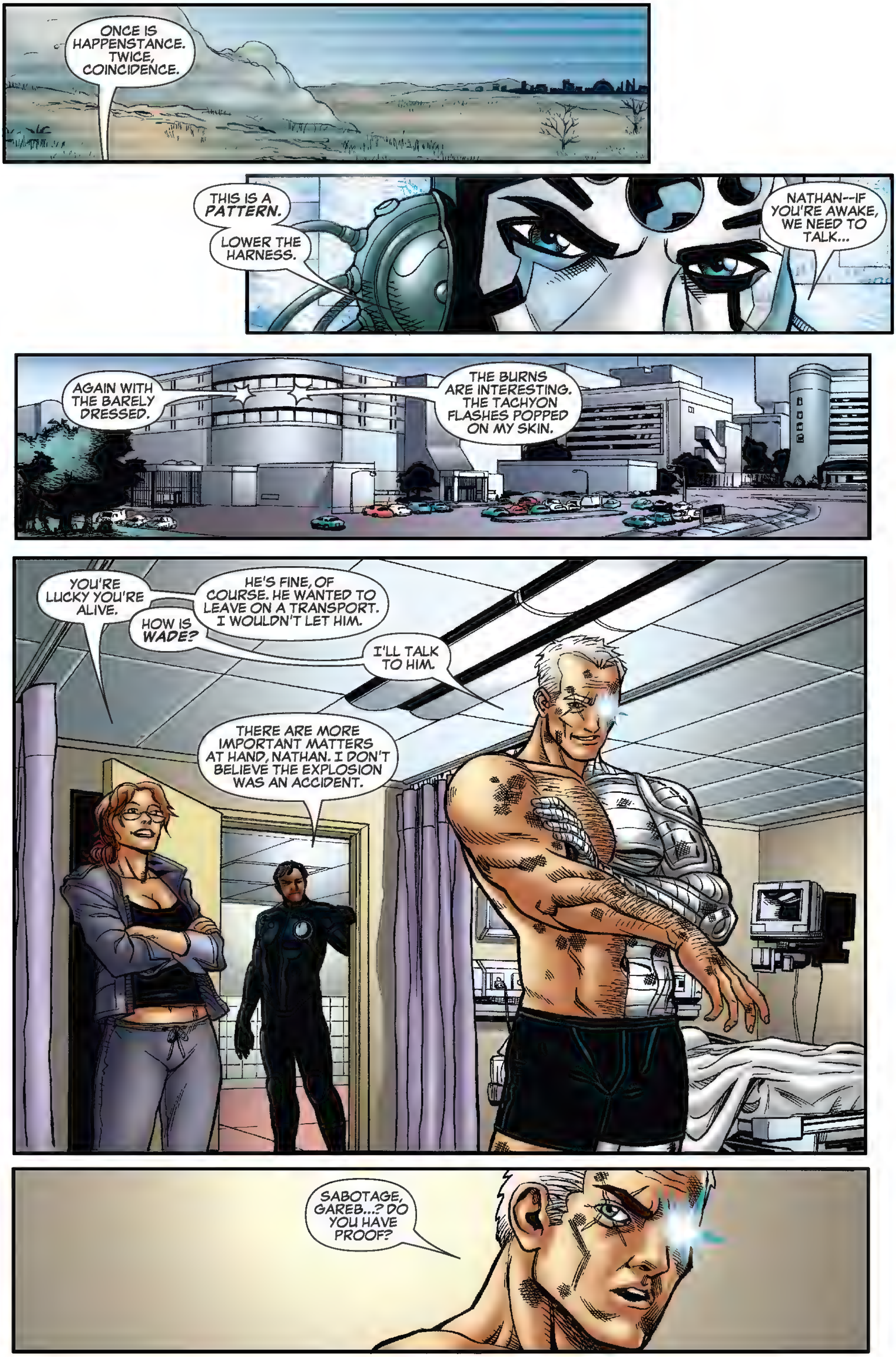

SO, "BODYSLIDE BY TWO" AND YOU TELEPORT ME INTO *THE MIDDLE OF A FREAKIN' NUCLEAR EXPLOSION?!*
HAD... NO... CHOICE...
CABLE LOST HIS *TELEKINETIC POWERS.* HE CREATED A *MECHANICAL* SUBSTITUTE FOR THEM.
HIS *GRAVIMETRIC SHEATH* IS A *FORCE FIELD* AROUND HIS BODY THAT HE CAN MANIPULATE TO SIMULATE HIS TELEKINESIS.
IN THIS CASE, EXTENDING HIS FIELD OUTWARD TO PROTECT THEM ALL FROM THE BLAST--
--AND USING IT TO CREATE A *FUNNEL*--

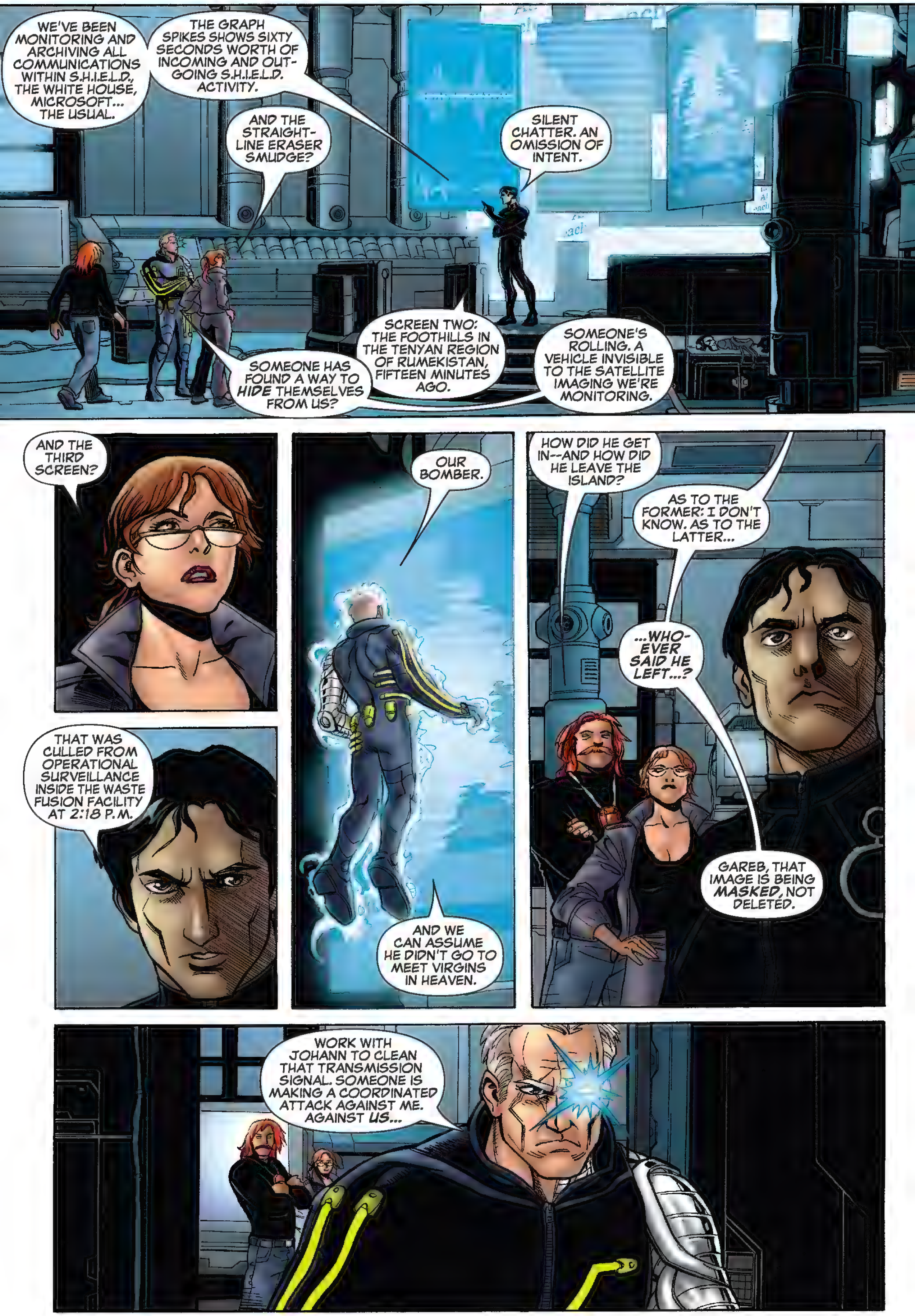

--THAT DISSIPATES THE FALLOUT FROM THE BLAST.
NOT THAT ANY OF IT WAS AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS...
SORRY... I DRAGGED YOU...INTO THIS...
YEAH, NOW THAT WE'RE NOT BESTEST BUDS ANY MORE, I'D APPRECIATE YOU *NOT* FORCING ME ALONG ON THESE LITTLE RIDES!
YEAH...THAT WHOLE...GENETIC-LINK THING...MAKES DIVORCE...KIND OF... TOUGH...
NATE--?
DID YOU PASS OUT?
WUSS.
FWUMPH
THE STRAIN MUST HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUS FOR IT TO HAVE RENDERED THEM BOTH UNCONSCIOUS.
YEAH, WELL, UNFORTUNATELY, DEADPOOL'S *HEALING FACTOR...*
"... WON'T LET HIM STAY OUT FOR LONG..."
NO, G.I. JOE, DON'T DO THAT TO BARBIE...IT'S SO VERY, *VERY,* WRONG...
UHM...I WASN'T DREAMING ANYTHING *TOO* EMBARRASSING, WAS I?
NO.
NOT BY YOUR STANDARDS, NO.
COOL. SO...WHAT'S UP--?

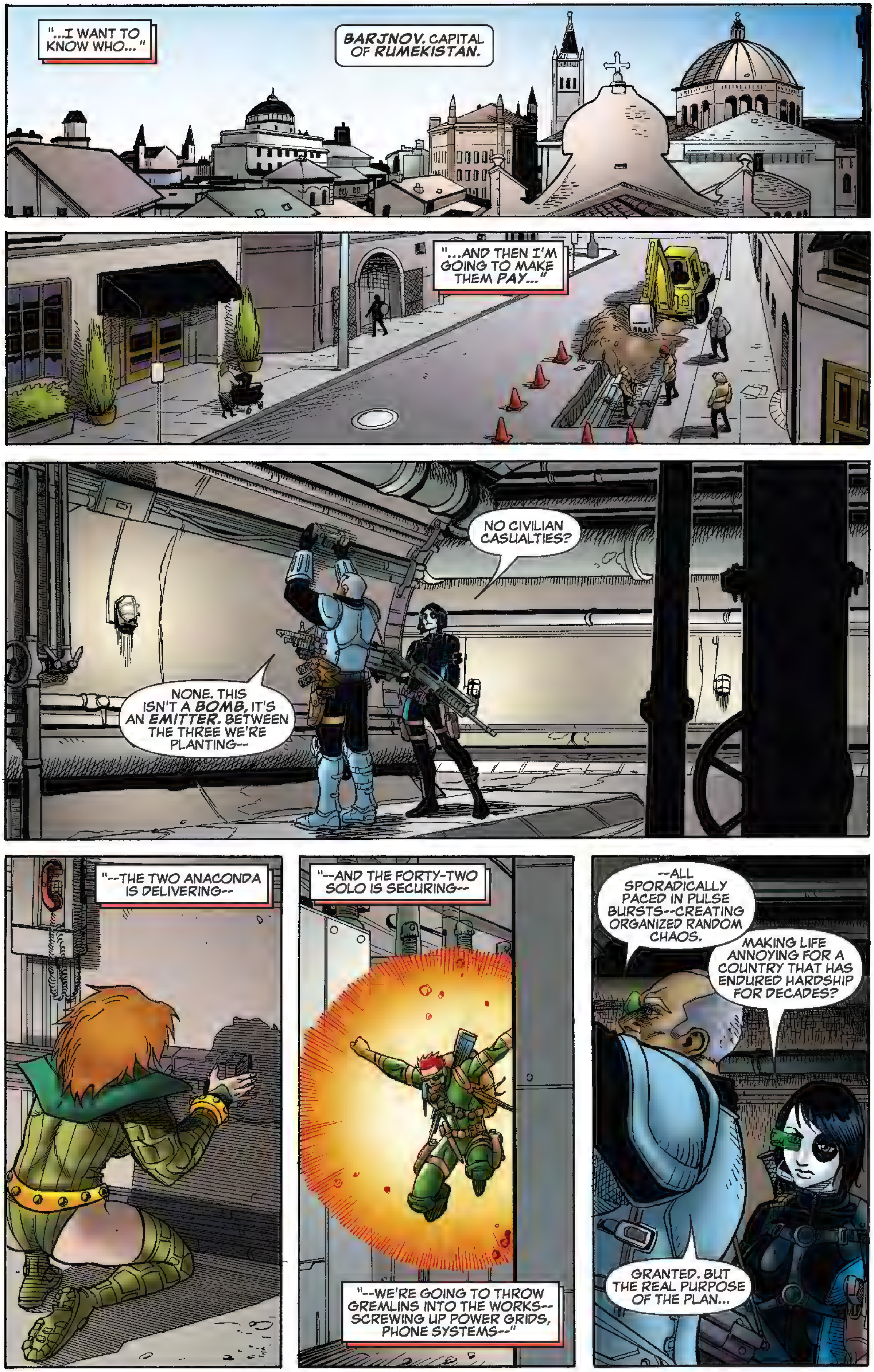

THE **HELICARRIER** FOR THE **STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE**
SATELLITE IMAGING SHOWS THE FIRES ON PROVIDENCE ARE COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL.
UNDERSTOOD, **AGENT STIHL**. LEAK TO THE PRESS THAT THEY'RE STILL RAGING. ADD A MENTION OF RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT, TOO.
IS CABLE STILL ON THE ISLAND?
YES, SIR.
SO **RUMEKISTAN** IS AN OPEN THEATRE FOR OPERATIONS?
IT HAS BEEN FOR SEVERAL HOURS, EVER SINCE WE INFORMED YOU CABLE HAD DEPARTED TO ATTEND TO THE EXPLOSION.
YES, AGENT STIHL, I UNDERSTAND, BUT IN SEVEN WEEKS--
--CABLE HAS ALREADY SIGNED A MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH FOUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND TRADE PACTS WITH TWELVE OTHER NATIONS.
FORGIVE US IF NEGOTIATING THIS POLITICAL **MINEFIELD** TAKES SOME TIME ON OUR END...
...AND REQUIRES THE COOPERATION OF OUR ALLIES.
INDEED, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THOUGH LOATH TO ACT RASHLY, IS CONCERNED ENOUGH ABOUT CABLE'S INCREASED ACTIVITIES--
--THAT THEY HAVE AGREED TO OPEN THEIR AIR SPACE, ALLOWING OUR OPERATIVES QUICK PASSAGE.
I UNDERSTAND, SIRS. I JUST NEED CLEARANCE TO ACT. PERIOD.
CONSIDER THE FIRST SALVO IN THE **UTOPIA WAR** READY FOR LAUNCH.
HAMMERHEAD, DO YOU COPY?
HAMMERHEAD COPY. STATUS: IN A HOLDING PATTERN OVER **GERMANY**.
YOU ARE CLEARED FOR INSERTION.
WE'RE CLEAR TO ROLL, PEOPLE.
AND WE GET A **DAYLIGHT DROP** BECAUSE THE BUREAUCRATS WERE DICKERING FOR HOURS. PUTZES.

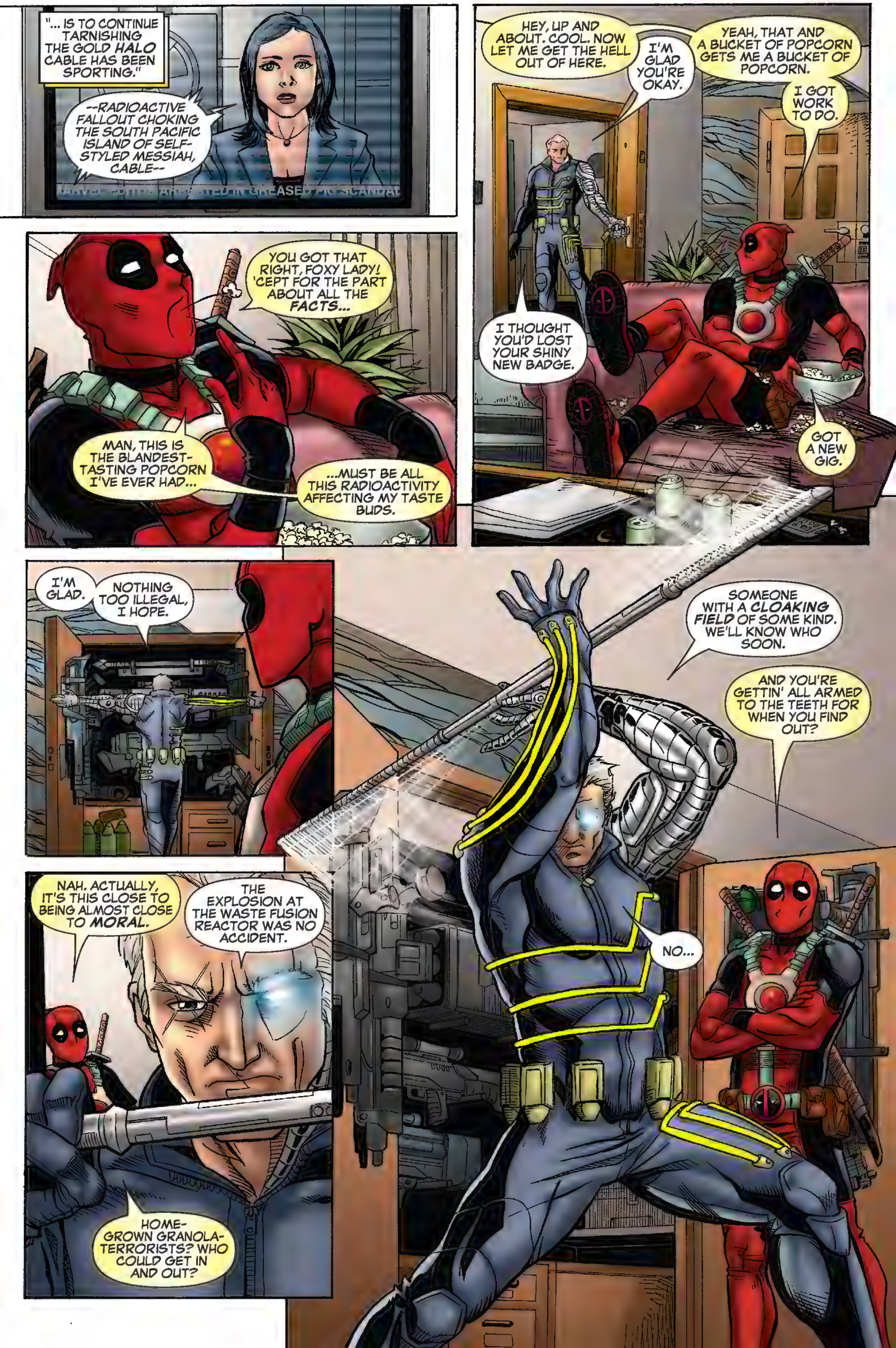

AH, WHATEVER, HAMMER...JUST MAKES IT MORE INTERESTING...
THE SIX PACK. PROFESSIONAL MERCENARIES.
G.W. BRIDGE. CURRENT SQUAD LEADER.
DOMINO. MERCENARY WITH MUTANT POWERS AURA THAT "LETS THINGS FALL HER WAY."
SOLO. MUTANT COVERT SOLDIER WITH THE ABILITY TO TELEPORT.
ANACONDA. FORMER MEMBER OF THE SERPENT SOCIETY WITH THE ABILITY TO EXPAND AND CONSTRICT HER APPENDAGES. IT'S PRETTY GROSS.
LANDING ZONE READS CLEAR. SHANIQUA IS CLEARED FOR DROP.
HAMMER. EISENHOWER CANTY. PARALYZED MERCENARY, ENGINEER AND INVENTOR.
SHANIQUA? WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT, BRIDGE?
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW, SOLO.

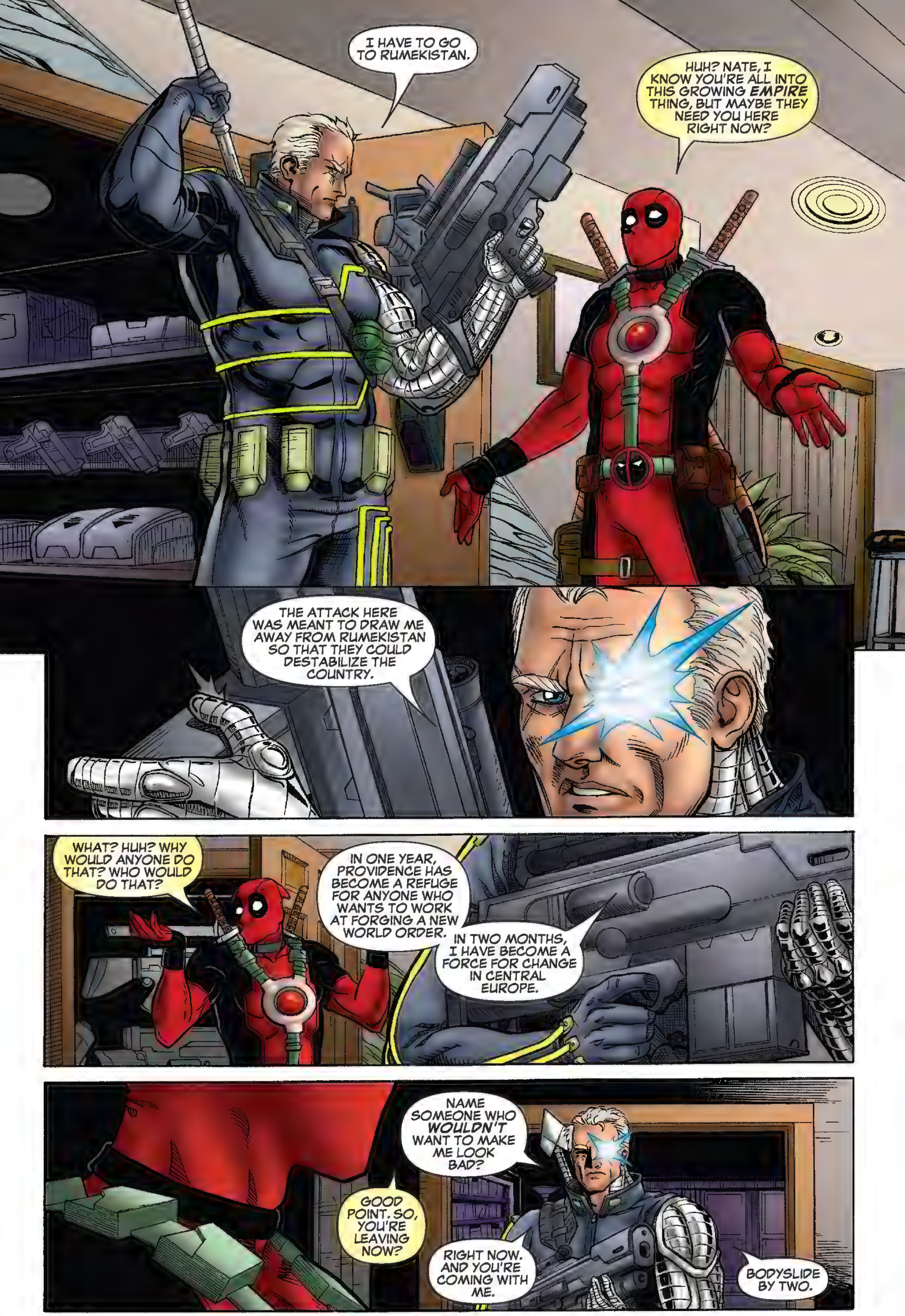

I CAN *TELEPORT* THERE IN ADVANCE. YOU ALL PLAN TO WALK?
NAH...
FWOOOMM!
MEET SHANIQUA.
HE *NAMES* HIS MODIFIED *HUMMERS?* DO I WANT TO KNOW?
BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T.
I'LL DRIVE.
MY SWEAT. MY KEYS. *I'LL* DRIVE.
FINE, BUT YOU BETTER HAVE *IPOD* PORTS IN EVERY SEAT. I REFUSE TO LISTEN TO ANACONDA'S PLAYLIST AGAIN...
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH *SHOW TUNES,* HUH...?
SERIOUSLY, NAME ONE THING WRONG WITH *"THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE..."*

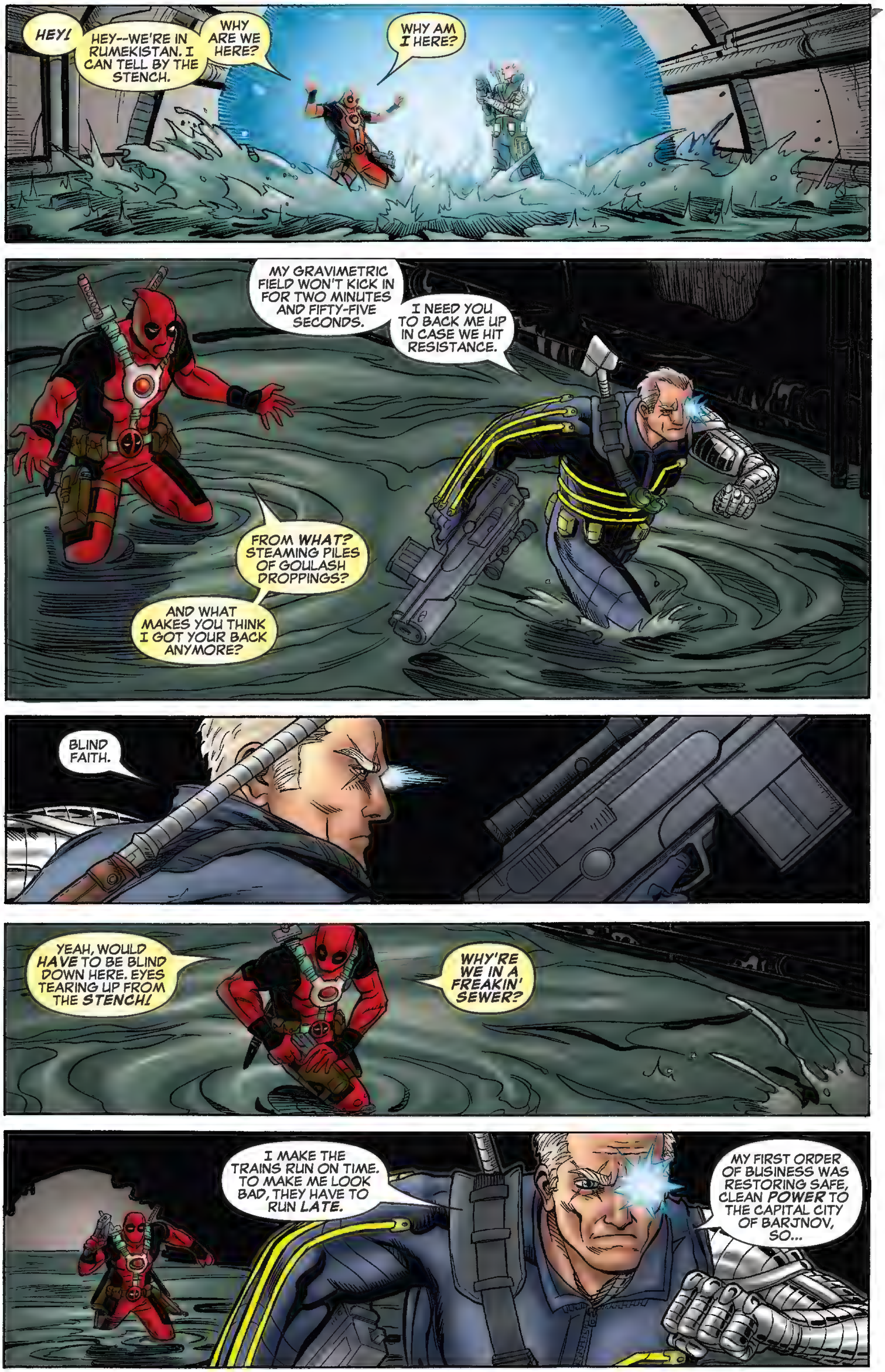

ONCE IS HAPPENSTANCE. TWICE, COINCIDENCE.
THIS IS A *PATTERN.*
LOWER THE HARNESS.
NATHAN--IF YOU'RE AWAKE, WE NEED TO TALK...
AGAIN WITH THE BARELY DRESSED.
THE BURNS ARE INTERESTING. THE TACHYON FLASHES POPPED ON MY SKIN.
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE ALIVE.
HOW IS *WADE?*
HE'S FINE, OF COURSE. HE WANTED TO LEAVE ON A TRANSPORT. I WOULDN'T LET HIM.
I'LL TALK TO HIM.
THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS AT HAND, NATHAN. I DON'T BELIEVE THE EXPLOSION WAS AN ACCIDENT.
SABOTAGE, GAREB...? DO YOU HAVE PROOF?

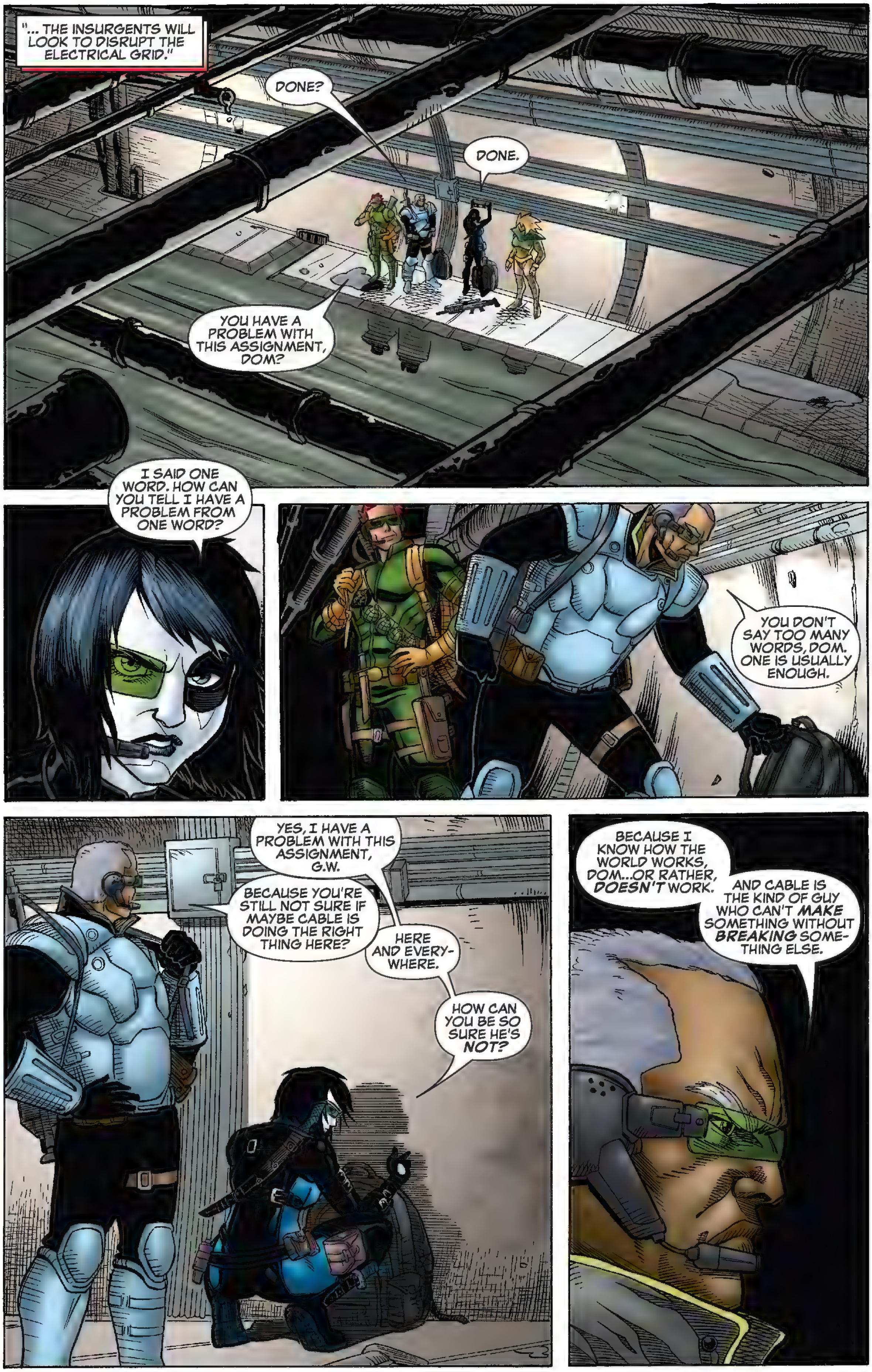

WE'VE BEEN MONITORING AND ARCHIVING ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN S.H.I.E.L.D., THE WHITE HOUSE, MICROSOFT... THE USUAL.
THE GRAPH SPIKES SHOWS SIXTY SECONDS WORTH OF INCOMING AND OUT-GOING S.H.I.E.L.D. ACTIVITY.
AND THE STRAIGHT-LINE ERASER SMUDGE?
SILENT CHATTER. AN OMISSION OF INTENT.
SOMEONE HAS FOUND A WAY TO *HIDE* THEMSELVES FROM US?
SCREEN TWO: THE FOOTHILLS IN THE TENYAN REGION OF RUMEKISTAN, FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.
SOMEONE'S ROLLING. A VEHICLE INVISIBLE TO THE SATELLITE IMAGING WE'RE MONITORING.
AND THE THIRD SCREEN?
THAT WAS CULLED FROM OPERATIONAL SURVEILLANCE INSIDE THE WASTE FUSION FACILITY AT 2:18 P.M.
OUR BOMBER.
AND WE CAN ASSUME HE DIDN'T GO TO MEET VIRGINS IN HEAVEN.
HOW DID HE GET IN--AND HOW DID HE LEAVE THE ISLAND?
AS TO THE FORMER: I DON'T KNOW. AS TO THE LATTER...
...WHO-EVER SAID HE LEFT...?
GAREB, THAT IMAGE IS BEING *MASKED*, NOT DELETED.
WORK WITH JOHANN TO CLEAN THAT TRANSMISSION SIGNAL. SOMEONE IS MAKING A COORDINATED ATTACK AGAINST ME. AGAINST *US*...

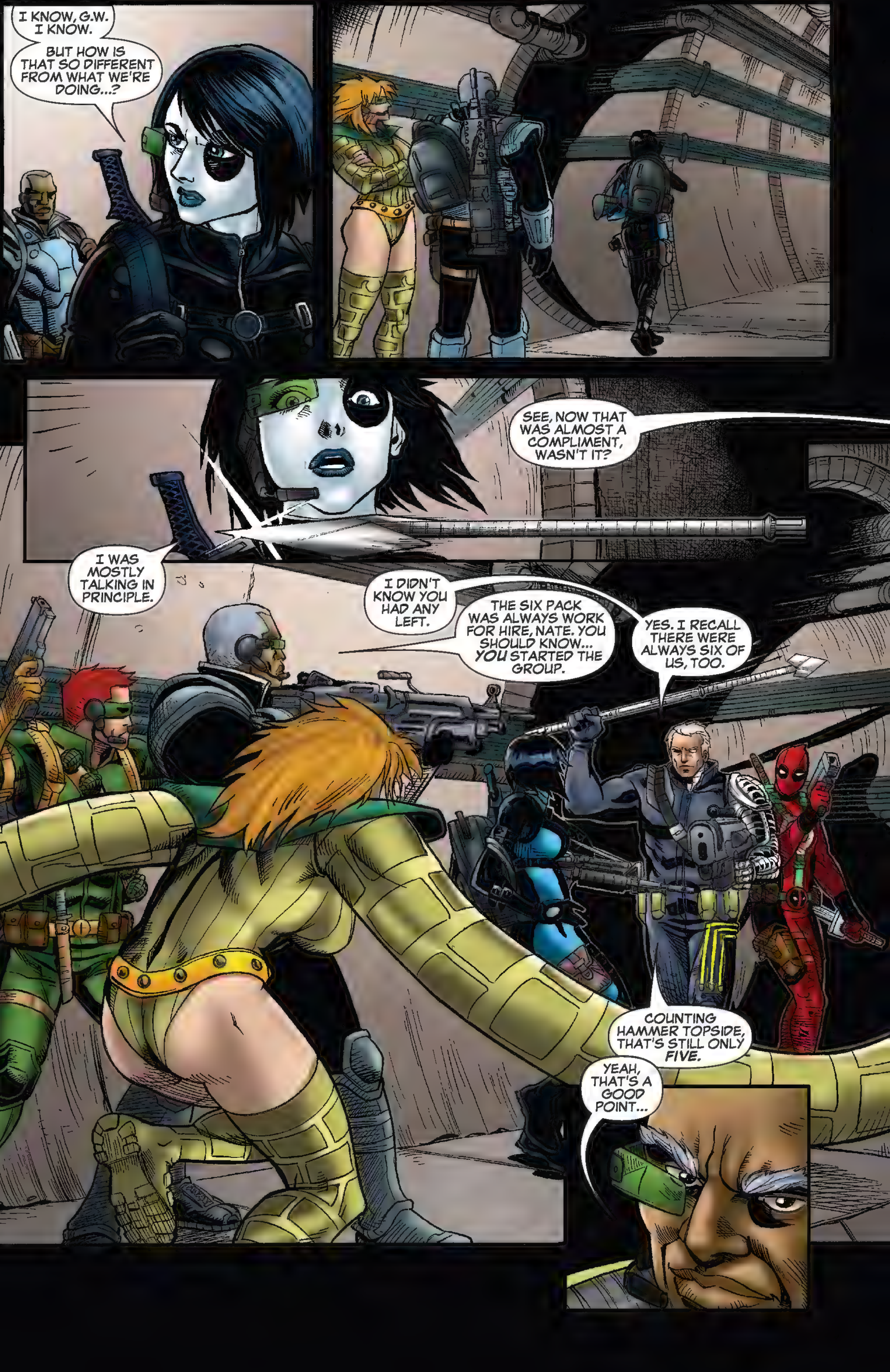

"...I WANT TO KNOW WHO..."
BARJNOV, CAPITAL OF RUMEKISTAN.
"...AND THEN I'M GOING TO MAKE THEM PAY..."
NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES?
NONE. THIS ISN'T A BOMB, IT'S AN EMITTER. BETWEEN THE THREE WE'RE PLANTING--
"--THE TWO ANACONDA IS DELIVERING--
"--AND THE FORTY-TWO SOLO IS SECURING--
"--WE'RE GOING TO THROW GREMLINS INTO THE WORKS--SCREWING UP POWER GRIDS, PHONE SYSTEMS--"
--ALL SPORADICALLY PACED IN PULSE BURSTS--CREATING ORGANIZED RANDOM CHAOS.
MAKING LIFE ANNOYING FOR A COUNTRY THAT HAS ENDURED HARDSHIP FOR DECADES?
GRANTED. BUT THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE PLAN...

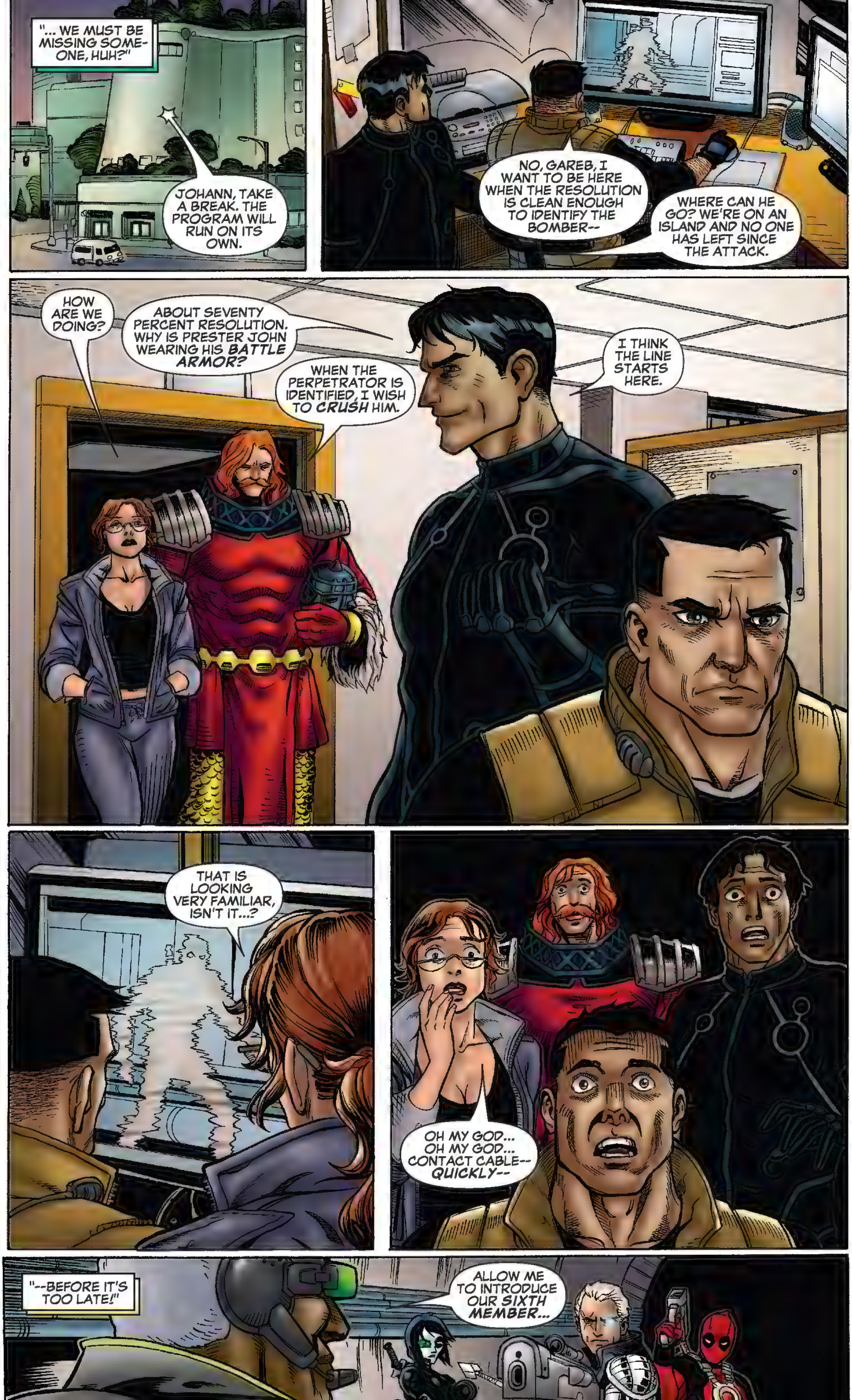

"... IS TO CONTINUE TARNISHING THE GOLD *HALO* CABLE HAS BEEN SPORTING."
--RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT CHOKING THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND OF SELF-STYLED MESSIAH, CABLE--
MARVEL EDITOR ARRESTED IN GREASED PIG SCANDAL
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, FOXY LADY! 'CEPT FOR THE PART ABOUT ALL THE *FACTS*...
MAN, THIS IS THE BLANDEST-TASTING POPCORN I'VE EVER HAD...
...MUST BE ALL THIS RADIOACTIVITY AFFECTING MY TASTE BUDS.
HEY, UP AND ABOUT. COOL. NOW LET ME GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY.
YEAH, THAT AND A BUCKET OF POPCORN GETS ME A BUCKET OF POPCORN.
I GOT WORK TO DO.
I THOUGHT YOU'D LOST YOUR SHINY NEW BADGE.
GOT A NEW GIG.
I'M GLAD.
NOTHING TOO ILLEGAL, I HOPE.
NAH. ACTUALLY, IT'S THIS CLOSE TO BEING ALMOST CLOSE TO *MORAL*.
THE EXPLOSION AT THE WASTE FUSION REACTOR WAS NO ACCIDENT.
HOME-GROWN GRANOLA-TERRORISTS? WHO COULD GET IN AND OUT?
NO...
SOMEONE WITH A *CLOAKING FIELD* OF SOME KIND. WE'LL KNOW WHO SOON.
AND YOU'RE GETTIN' ALL ARMED TO THE TEETH FOR WHEN YOU FIND OUT?

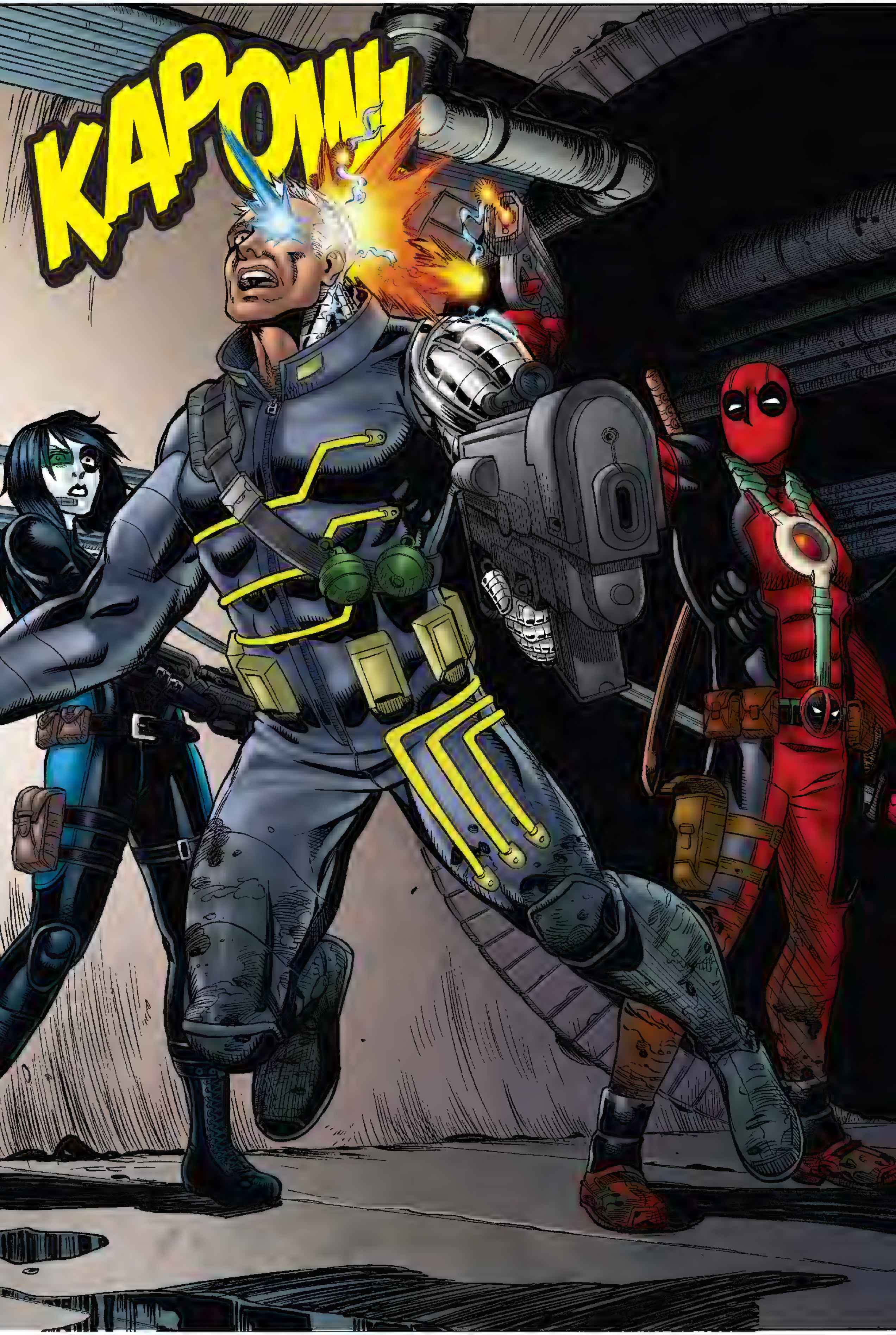

I HAVE TO GO TO RUMEKISTAN.
HUH? NATE, I KNOW YOU'RE ALL INTO THIS GROWING ***EMPIRE*** THING, BUT MAYBE THEY NEED YOU HERE RIGHT NOW?
THE ATTACK HERE WAS MEANT TO DRAW ME AWAY FROM RUMEKISTAN SO THAT THEY COULD DESTABILIZE THE COUNTRY.
WHAT? HUH? WHY WOULD ANYONE DO THAT? WHO WOULD DO THAT?
IN ONE YEAR, PROVIDENCE HAS BECOME A REFUGE FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO WORK AT FORGING A NEW WORLD ORDER.
IN TWO MONTHS, I HAVE BECOME A FORCE FOR CHANGE IN CENTRAL EUROPE.
NAME SOMEONE WHO ***WOULDN'T*** WANT TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD?
GOOD POINT. SO, YOU'RE LEAVING NOW?
RIGHT NOW. AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
BODYSLIDE BY TWO.


HEY!
HEY--WE'RE IN RUMEKISTAN. I CAN TELL BY THE STENCH.
WHY ARE WE HERE?
WHY AM *I* HERE?
MY GRAVIMETRIC FIELD WON'T KICK IN FOR TWO MINUTES AND FIFTY-FIVE SECONDS.
I NEED YOU TO BACK ME UP IN CASE WE HIT RESISTANCE.
FROM *WHAT?* STEAMING PILES OF GOULASH DROPPINGS?
AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I GOT YOUR BACK ANYMORE?
BLIND FAITH.
YEAH, WOULD *HAVE* TO BE BLIND DOWN HERE. EYES TEARING UP FROM THE *STENCH!*
WHY'RE WE IN A FREAKIN' SEWER?
I MAKE THE TRAINS RUN ON TIME. TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD, THEY HAVE TO RUN *LATE.*
MY FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS RESTORING SAFE, CLEAN *POWER* TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF BARJNOV, SO...


"...THE INSURGENTS WILL LOOK TO DISRUPT THE ELECTRICAL GRID."
DONE?
DONE.
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS ASSIGNMENT, DOM?
I SAID ONE WORD. HOW CAN YOU TELL I HAVE A PROBLEM FROM ONE WORD?
YOU DON'T SAY TOO MANY WORDS, DOM. ONE IS USUALLY ENOUGH.
YES, I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS ASSIGNMENT, G.W.
BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL NOT SURE IF MAYBE CABLE IS DOING THE RIGHT THING HERE?
HERE AND EVERYWHERE.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE HE'S *NOT?*
BECAUSE I KNOW HOW THE WORLD WORKS, DOM...OR RATHER, *DOESN'T* WORK.
AND CABLE IS THE KIND OF GUY WHO CAN'T *MAKE* SOMETHING WITHOUT *BREAKING* SOMETHING ELSE.


I KNOW, G.W. I KNOW.
BUT HOW IS THAT SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE'RE DOING...?
SEE, NOW THAT WAS ALMOST A COMPLIMENT, WASN'T IT?
I WAS MOSTLY TALKING IN PRINCIPLE.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD ANY LEFT.
THE SIX PACK WAS ALWAYS WORK FOR HIRE, NATE. YOU SHOULD KNOW... *YOU* STARTED THE GROUP.
YES. I RECALL THERE WERE ALWAYS SIX OF US, TOO.
COUNTING HAMMER TOPSIDE, THAT'S STILL ONLY *FIVE*.
YEAH, THAT'S A GOOD POINT...


"...WE MUST BE MISSING SOMEONE, HUH?"
JOHANN, TAKE A BREAK. THE PROGRAM WILL RUN ON ITS OWN.
NO, GAREB, I WANT TO BE HERE WHEN THE RESOLUTION IS CLEAN ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY THE BOMBER--
WHERE CAN HE GO? WE'RE ON AN ISLAND AND NO ONE HAS LEFT SINCE THE ATTACK.
HOW ARE WE DOING?
ABOUT SEVENTY PERCENT RESOLUTION. WHY IS PRESTER JOHN WEARING HIS BATTLE ARMOR?
WHEN THE PERPETRATOR IS IDENTIFIED, I WISH TO CRUSH HIM.
I THINK THE LINE STARTS HERE.
THAT IS LOOKING VERY FAMILIAR, ISN'T IT...?
OH MY GOD... OH MY GOD... CONTACT CABLE-- QUICKLY--
"--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE OUR SIXTH MEMBER...


KAPOW!

DEAR DEADPOOL

NICOLE SEZ:
Last letters page, we told you to stay tuned for more info on how to get your hands on hard-to-find Cable & Deadpool trade paperbacks. Well, dear reader, those precious collections are still pretty hard to find. But if you tell your local retailer how much it means to you, he or she will pass those requests along to Marvel's very own David Gabriel. And if enough people ask for it, we'll work on making them available again.

And now, over to Deadpool!

Hey, welcome to the Letters Page. Thirty-Three issues, who'dathunk it, huh? I mean, what with the fact we didn't call ourselves New Cable & Deadpool. Or The Mighty Cable & Deadpool. And come to think of it, either one of those work spiffy keen, I'm thinkin'... Nicole... time to get our sales up without a crossover into a mega-selling major Mighty Marvel Event! We need to do it the old-fashioned way – earn it with a new logo!

Anyways, some of you mooks always have something to say, so...

Dear Mr. Pool,

I've read a few issues of Cable & Deadpool and I plan on buying them every month now. You guys rock hard enough to make me spend an extra 3 bucks every month. Anyway, I have a few questions.

1. What is with all the pouches, dude? You and Cable are loaded with them. Not as many as in the past, but still. Other than pancreases (panchre-i?), what are in them? Spare change? Keys? Fun-Sized Snickers Bars?

2. Do you know if Great Lake Champions have their own title? They should--anyone who can hold their own against you needs to have one. If they don't, could you put in a good word? You know, so you can fight them again. Ya.

Aaand I'm out. Hope you get your First Person issues worked out!

Lindsay Page
Durham, North Carolina

Wow, a whole three bucks more a month, Lindsay. What's that? Like a couple of Snickers bars, right? C'mon, suck it up!

Ooh, numbered questions!

1. Pouch jokes are passé. Go bother the Dark Knight.

2.The Great Lakes Champions had their own limited series and their own special a bit back, but they simply can't hold a candle sale-wise to the imperious glory that is The Mighty Cable & Deadpool. So unless Slott guest-stars them in She-Hulk, you can pretty much expect they'll only ever show up in our book.

Nicole says the guy below earned a digital No-Prize from Tom Brevoort. I have no idea what she's talking about.

On the ComixFan board, Tom said I ought to send this in, so I shall, verbatim. I know that it might not be "above and beyond" but it's more in the old Mark G. continuity fix style, but hey, it helped spur the return of the no-prize in its own little way(or so I like to believe).

So about Flag Smasher being magically alive (and in the really cool old Space Ghost costume) in YA/Runaways when he got his head blown in a few months ago in Cable & Deadpool, AND the fact that the Runaways said that they caught him a number of times lately.

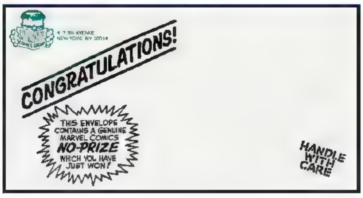
I suppose that the death of Flag Smasher prompted some bulky former ULTIMATUM member, living on the West Coast, to don the old costume in his former uberlibertarian master's memory, so that the legend of the Flag-Smasher could live on uninterrupted. Unfortunately, he wasn't exactly competent and was quickly captured by a bunch of snot nosed super brats (and their dinosaur too).

One of his roommates, another former ULTIMATUM member, took up the cause, and was quickly captured as well. And thus the process repeats until we get to the current guy.

I hope for the best and understand if I get less than that.

Excelsior and thanks,
Matt DiCarlo

Nicole Sez: Since Deadpool has no idea what Matt's talking about, we'll just use this space to print a copy of his glorious No-Prize right here!


CONGRATULATIONS!
THIS ENVELOPE CONTAINS A GENUINE MARVEL COMICS NO-PRIZE WHICH YOU HAVE JUST WON!
HANDLE WITH CARE

Dear Deadpool,

You and Nate have by far the most entertaining series on the racks. I am a personal fan and have been for years. I am excited to see that you are still maiming people. I am talking to my friends to try to get them to read your comic, but sadly they don't know who you are. They really don't know what they are missing and neither does anyone else who misses out on this comic.

1. If Bea were inside of a giant chimichanga, what would you rather do: eat the chimichanga, save Bea, or a dangerous-yet-gratifying combination of both?

2. Who is tougher to fight: Daredevil or Spider-Man? I noticed you had much more trouble with Spider-Man.

3. How long was it before Nate saved your bladder from exploding in your duct tape cocoon, and did you steal the soap from the White House bathrooms?

4. Can you take an explosion like Wolverine did from Nitro, or is your Deadpoolness too great to get into that situation?

5. How do you get blood out of spandex?

I hope this series lasts a good long time, because I plan on spending much of my good hard-earned cash on this comic book. Rock on, DP-Diddy.

Much respect,
Tylor

Tylor, you need a better crop of friends. Ooh, numbered questions!

1. What do YOU think? I can have my cake AND eat it, too!

2. Neither one of them hold a candle to the threat-to-all-reality known as Squirrel Girl. She's nuts, man.

3. I honestly lost track of time there, what with delays in Civil War shipping schedule, I could've been tied up for months. And no, I did not steal the soap. Although I did pinch some delightful pot-pourri...

4. Hey, he was like practically incinerated and then healed himself all up like in one or two panels, right? Heh-heh. That's pretty funny. Fabian says I can't do that because it would be kind of ridiculous.

5. I spend too much time trying to figure out ways to get blood ON TO spandex, Ty...

Dear Deadpool,

Thanks for giving us fanboys, or in my case fangirls, a chance to talk with you. Just to let you know, there is a big fanbase of young girls that absolutely adore you. Really. I mean there's me and, well... me. But that's okay, 'cause I've got a movement going. I would really love it if you would put the word out for us Marvel girls. I mean, why is it I always get funny looks when I walk into a comic store wearing a tank top and an ungodly short skirt and demand the next Cable and Deadpool? Not all comic readers are thirty-year-olds living with their moms. Most, but certainly not all.

Anywho, since you love numbered questions so much, I'll give you a few.

1) [Question number 1 is unprintable but essentially asks if you have any stories to share about duct tape and/or chocolate pudding.]

2) I love your Bea Arthur obsession. I'm a huge fan, which is another hobby I don't share with most people my age. You can admit it, you're not alone anymore.

I love everything you guys are putting out. Keep doing it.

Love,
Sondra

A fanbase of young girls, you say, Sondra? So... exactly HOW young are we talking here... I mean, what with the restraining order I used to have on the Olsen Twins and all... just curious.

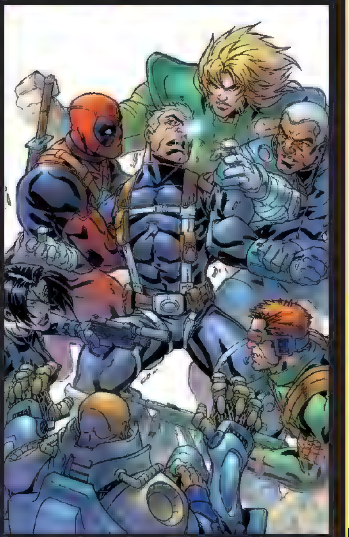
Oooh, numbered questions!

1. Nicole said your question is unprintable but involves stories I might be willing to share regarding duct tape and/or chocolate pudding--? Well... howzabout this, Sondra, you send me YOUR stories first! Then if the FBI isn't monitoring your emails by then, I'll send you some of mine. Oh, yeah, you can reach me at the following address:

Ralph Macchio c/o
MHEROES@Marvel.com

2. A young female fan who wants to share stories of chocolate pudding AND has a Bea obsession? Nicole, I think I smell WEDDING ISSUE coming up around #50...

NEXT ISSUE:

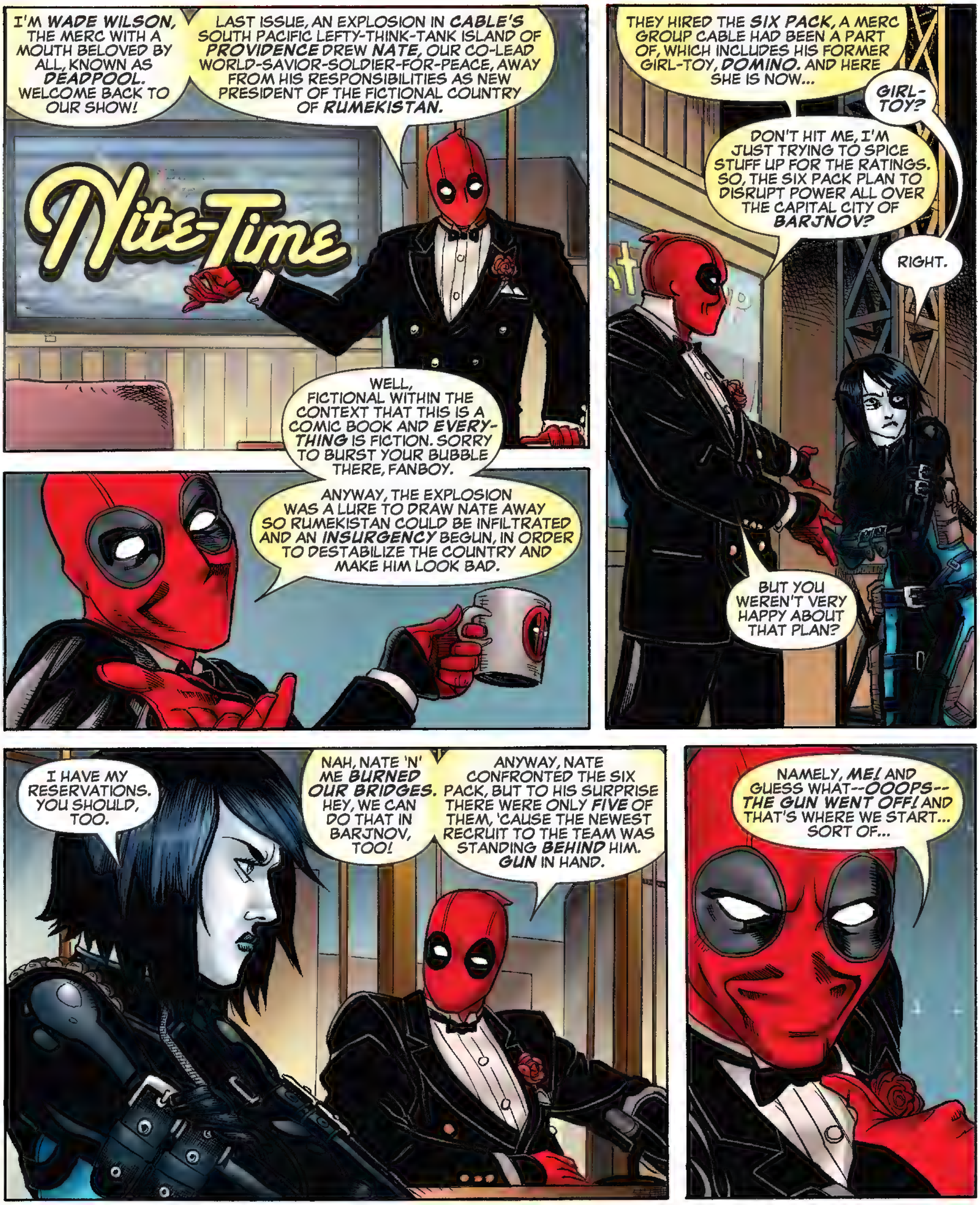


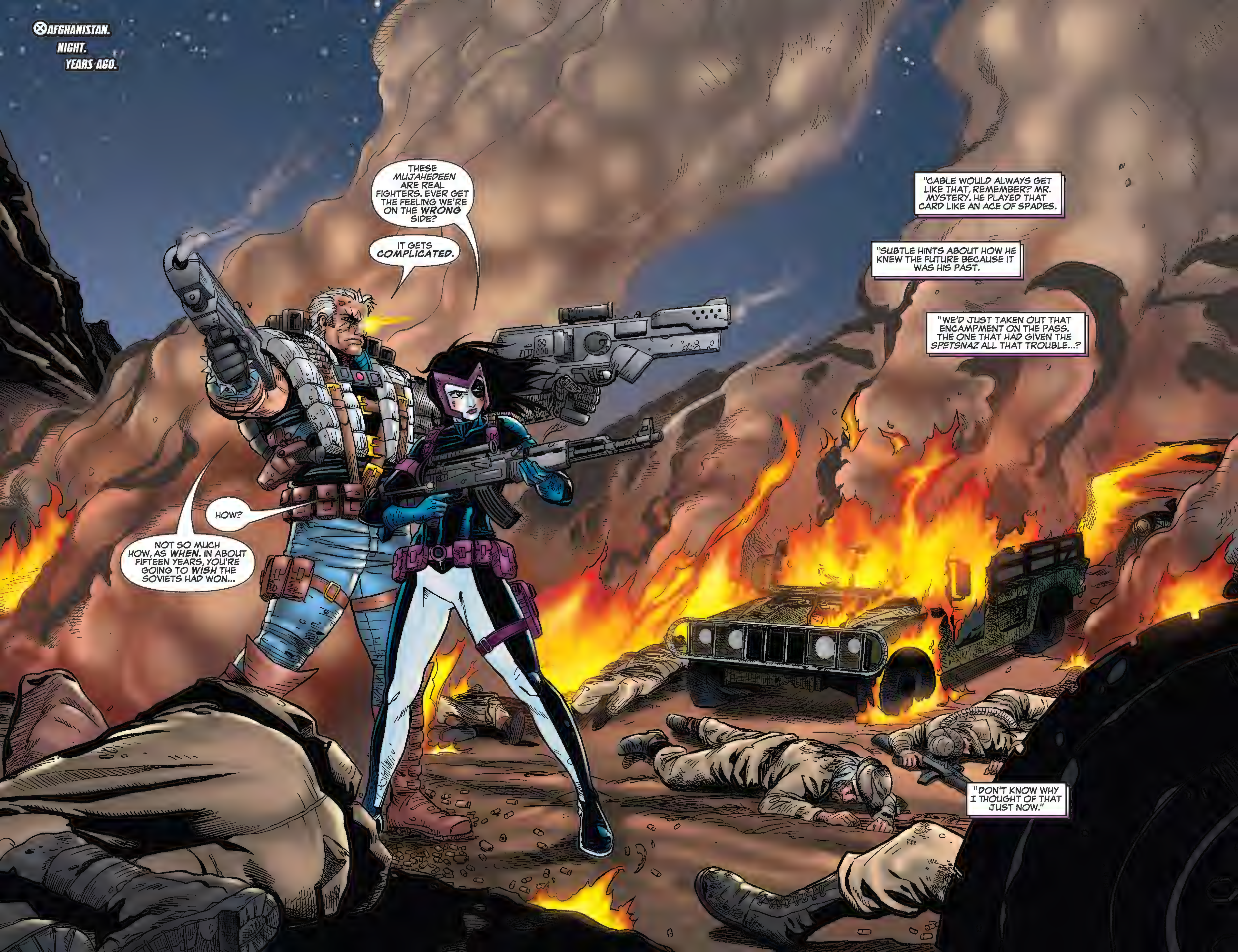
That's all for this month, gang! Next month, we wrap up our Rumekistan story with some big surprises.

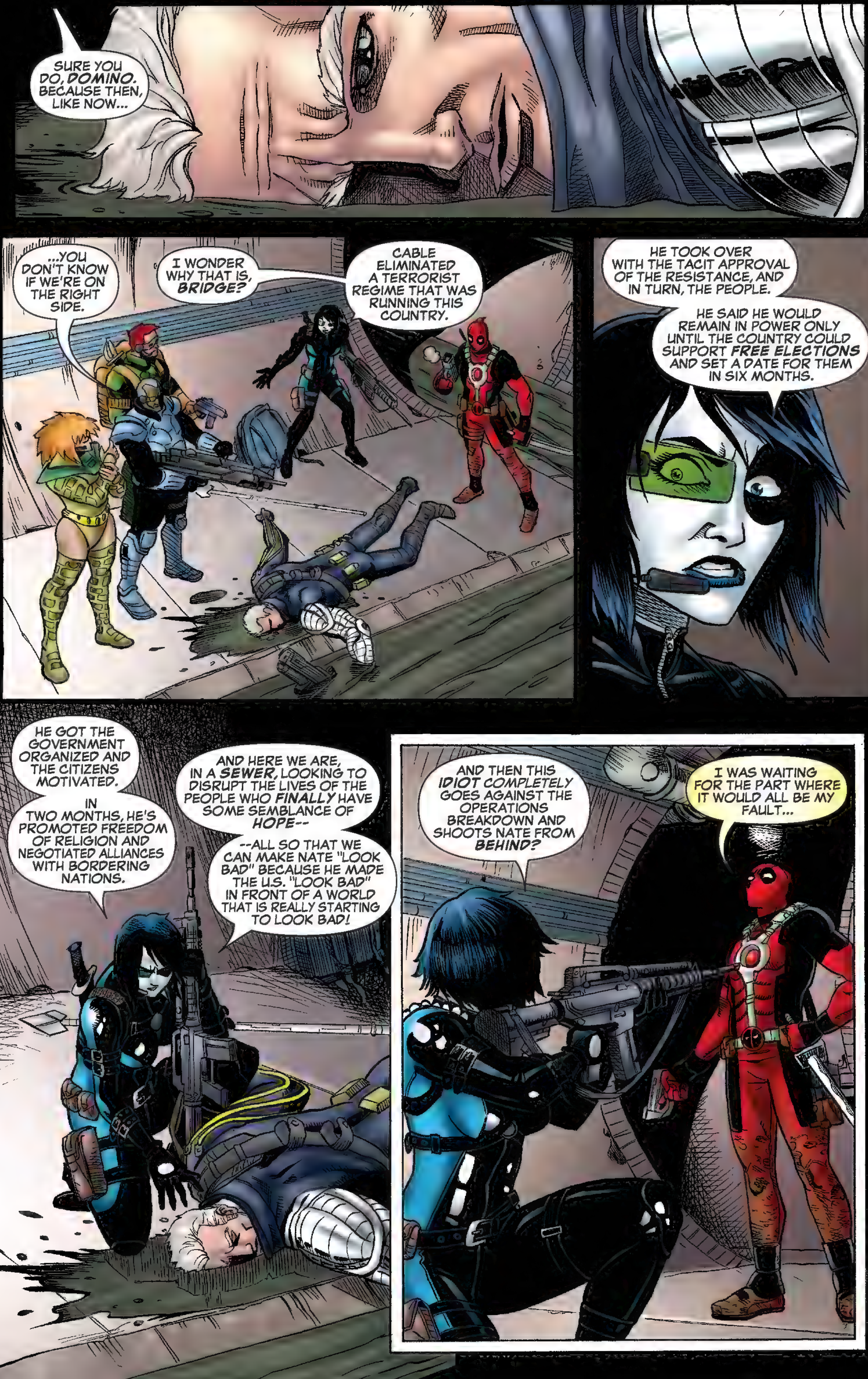
34

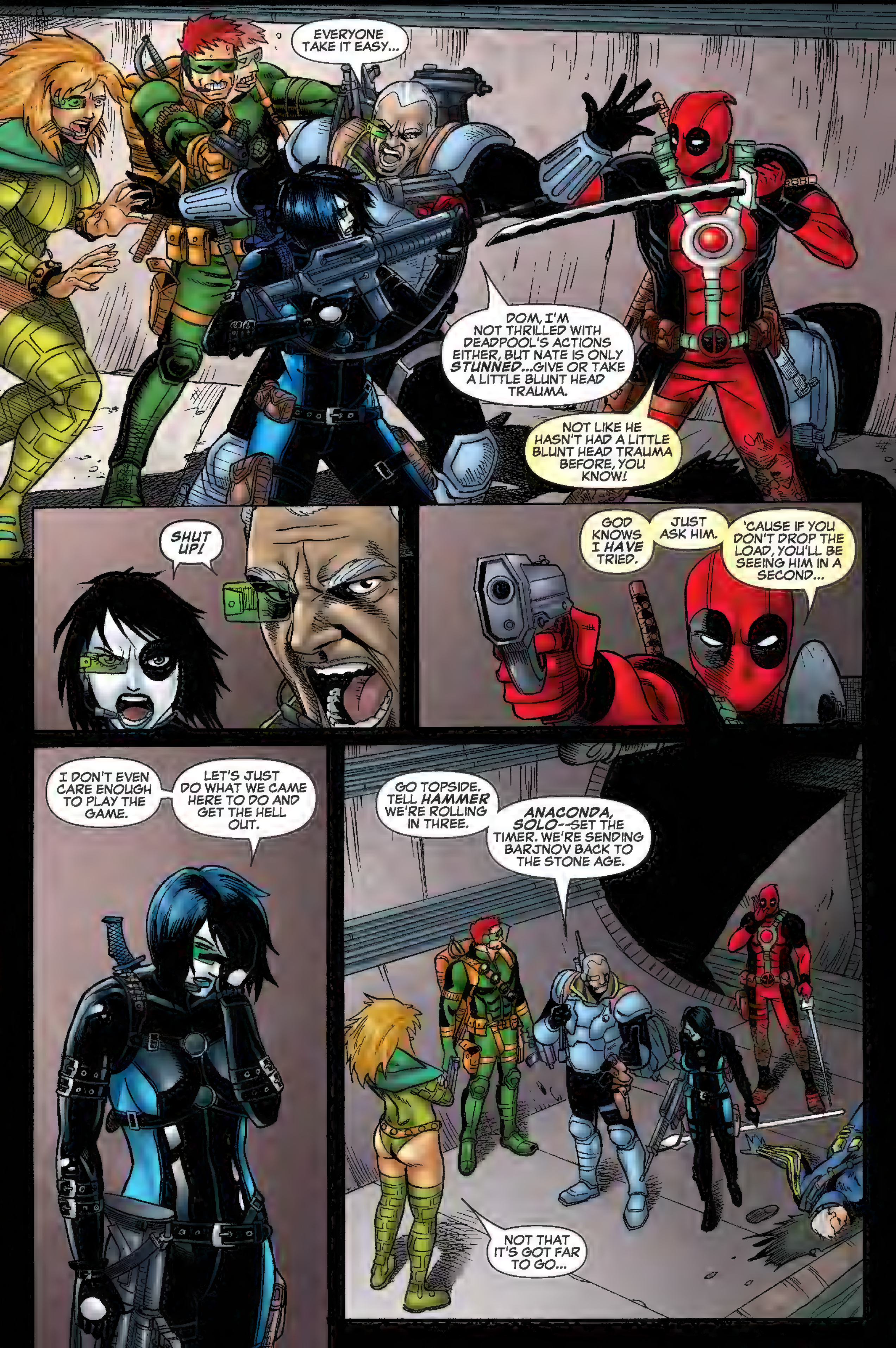
Falling Into Place

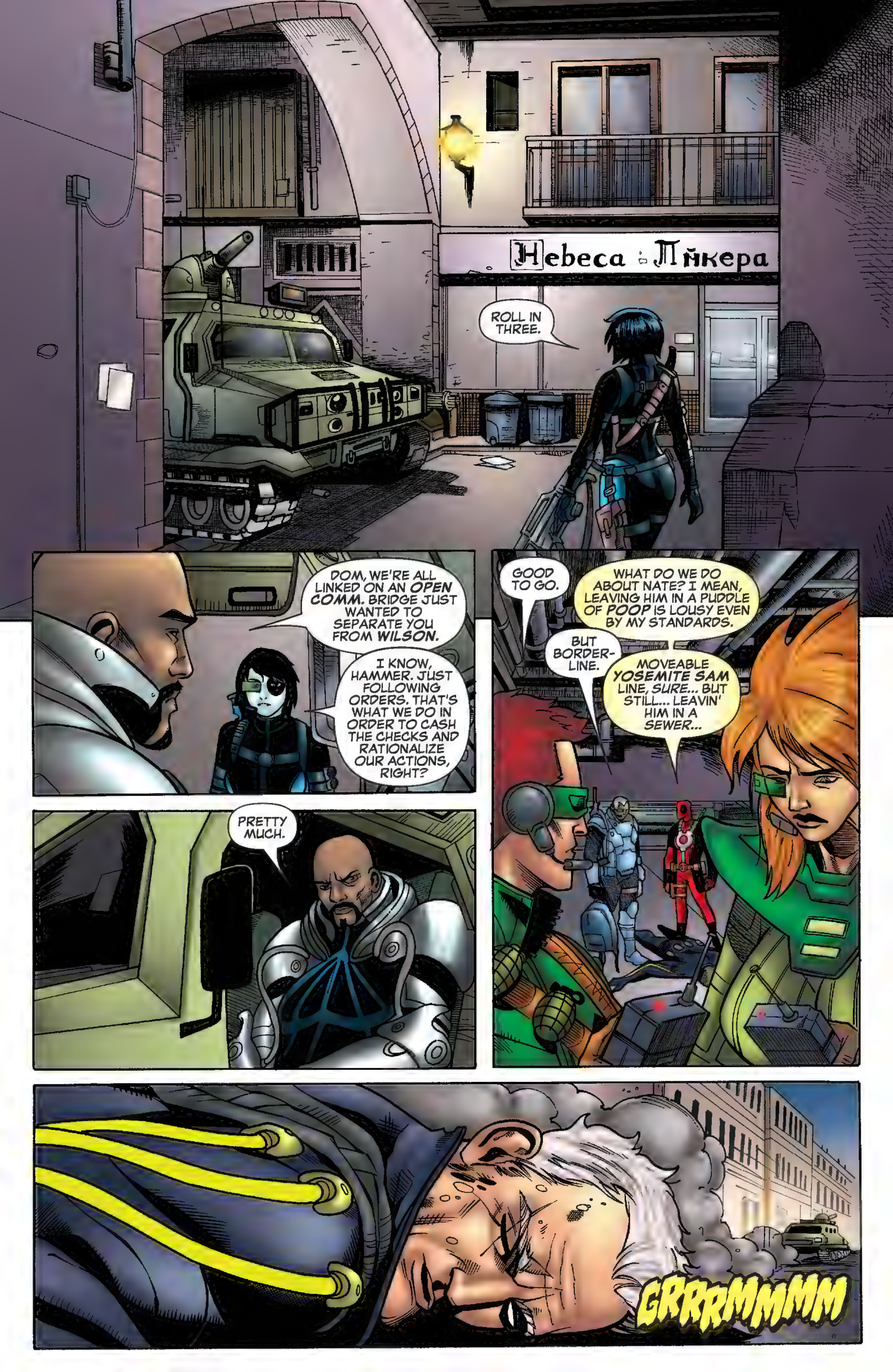
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS OF PUNISHER:WAR JOURNAL.

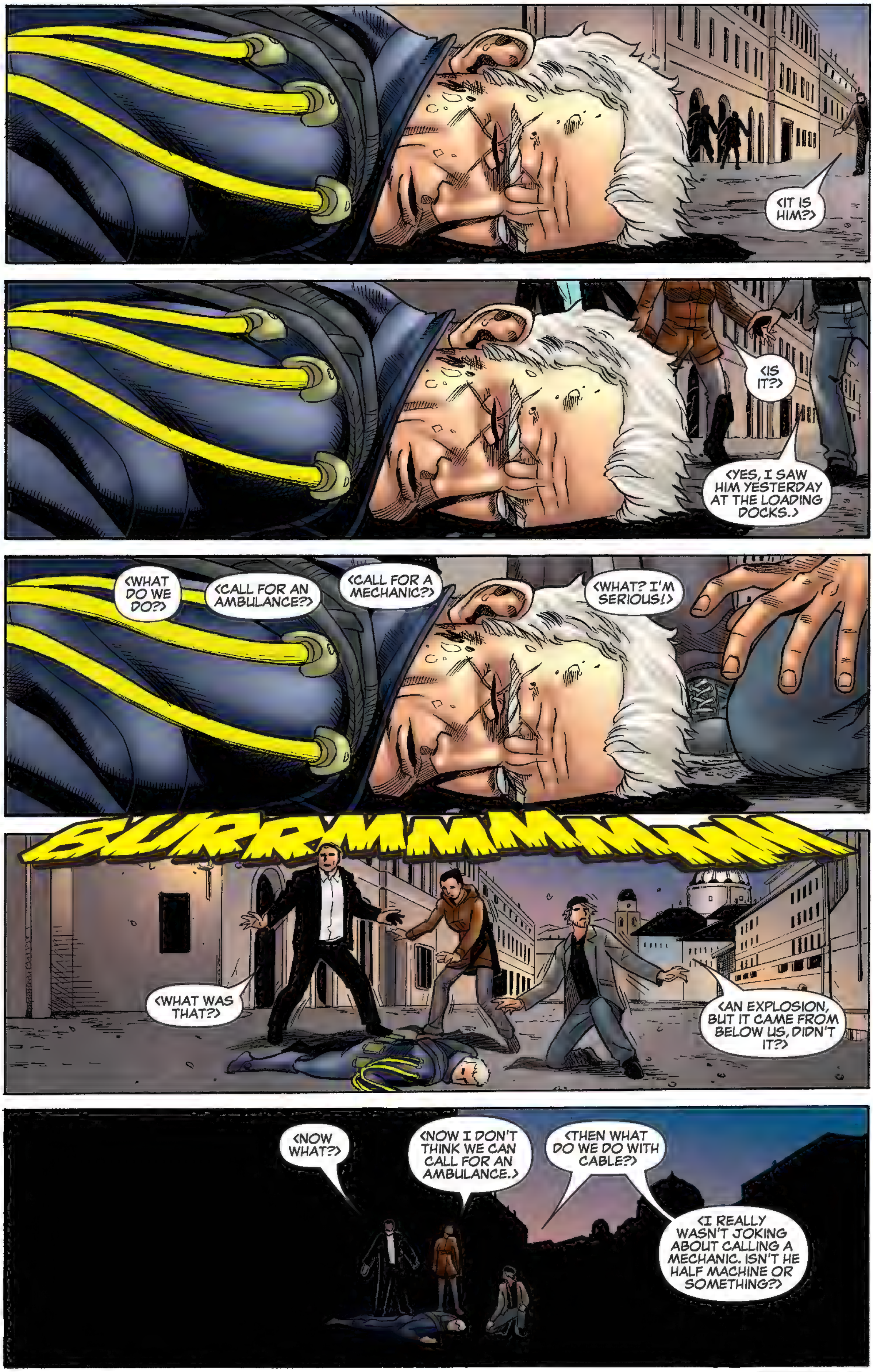

I'M **WADE WILSON**, THE MERC WITH A MOUTH BELOVED BY ALL, KNOWN AS **DEADPOOL**. WELCOME BACK TO OUR SHOW!
LAST ISSUE, AN EXPLOSION IN **CABLE'S** SOUTH PACIFIC LEFTY-THINK-TANK ISLAND OF **PROVIDENCE** DREW **NATE**, OUR CO-LEAD WORLD-SAVIOR-SOLDIER-FOR-PEACE, AWAY FROM HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS NEW PRESIDENT OF THE FICTIONAL COUNTRY OF **RUMEKISTAN**.
Nite-Time
WELL, FICTIONAL WITHIN THE CONTEXT THAT THIS IS A COMIC BOOK AND **EVERYTHING** IS FICTION. SORRY TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE THERE, FANBOY.
ANYWAY, THE EXPLOSION WAS A LURE TO DRAW NATE AWAY SO RUMEKISTAN COULD BE INFILTRATED AND AN **INSURGENCY** BEGUN, IN ORDER TO DESTABILIZE THE COUNTRY AND MAKE HIM LOOK BAD.
THEY HIRED THE **SIX PACK**, A MERC GROUP CABLE HAD BEEN A PART OF, WHICH INCLUDES HIS FORMER GIRL-TOY, **DOMINO**. AND HERE SHE IS NOW...
GIRL-TOY?
DON'T HIT ME, I'M JUST TRYING TO SPICE STUFF UP FOR THE RATINGS. SO, THE SIX PACK PLAN TO DISRUPT POWER ALL OVER THE CAPITAL CITY OF **BARJNOV**?
RIGHT.
BUT YOU WEREN'T VERY HAPPY ABOUT THAT PLAN?
I HAVE MY RESERVATIONS. YOU SHOULD, TOO.
NAH, NATE 'N' ME **BURNED OUR BRIDGES**. HEY, WE CAN DO THAT IN BARJNOV, TOO!
ANYWAY, NATE CONFRONTED THE SIX PACK, BUT TO HIS SURPRISE THERE WERE ONLY **FIVE** OF THEM, 'CAUSE THE NEWEST RECRUIT TO THE TEAM WAS STANDING **BEHIND** HIM. **GUN** IN HAND.
NAMELY, **ME!** AND GUESS WHAT--**OOOPS--THE GUN WENT OFF!** AND THAT'S WHERE WE START... SORT OF...

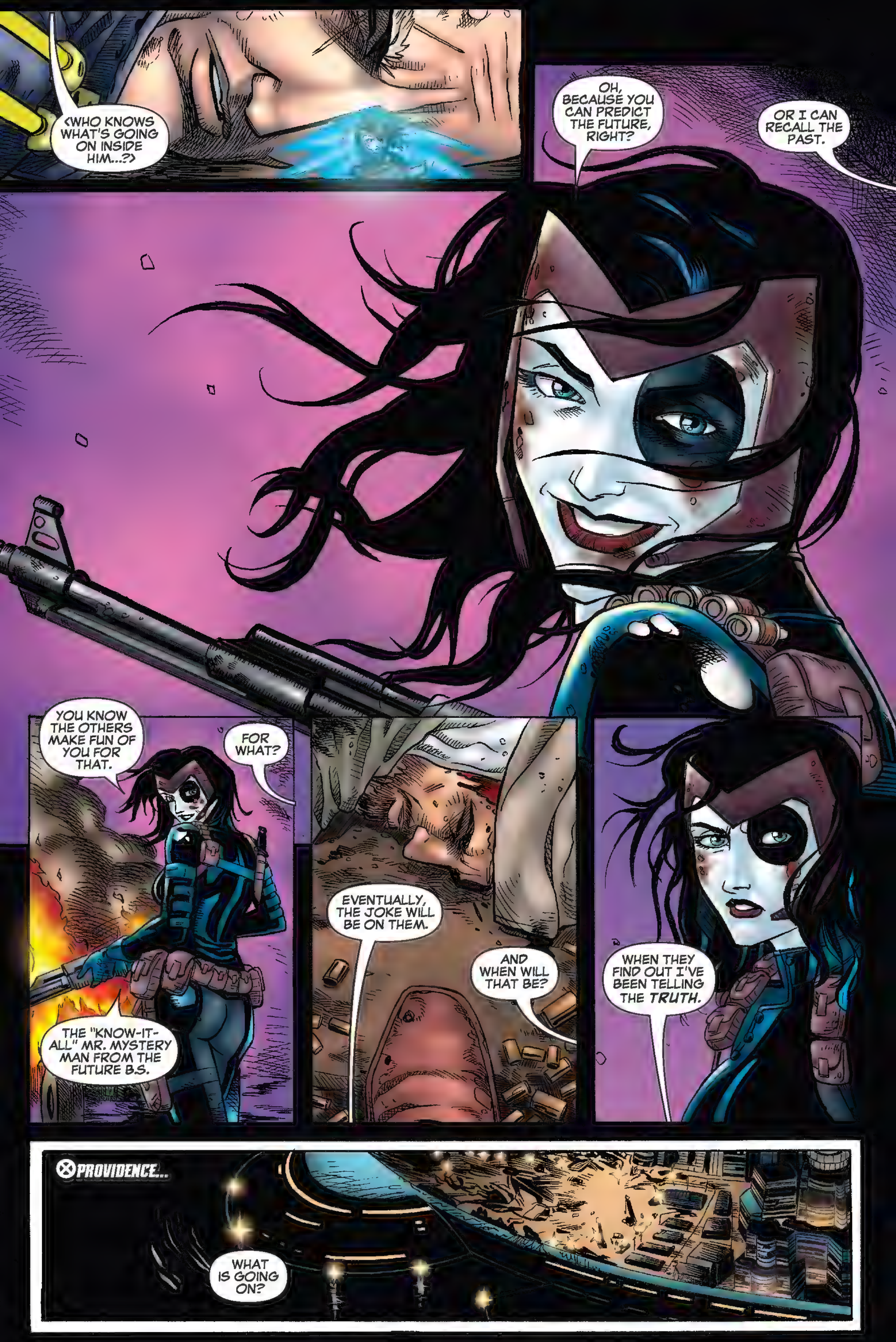

AFGHANISTAN. NIGHT. YEARS AGO.
THESE MUJAHEDEEN ARE REAL FIGHTERS. EVER GET THE FEELING WE'RE ON THE **WRONG** SIDE?
IT GETS **COMPLICATED.**
HOW?
NOT SO MUCH HOW, AS **WHEN.** IN ABOUT FIFTEEN YEARS, YOU'RE GOING TO **WISH** THE SOVIETS HAD WON...
"CABLE WOULD ALWAYS GET LIKE THAT, REMEMBER? MR. MYSTERY. HE PLAYED THAT CARD LIKE AN ACE OF SPADES.
"SUBTLE HINTS ABOUT HOW HE KNEW THE FUTURE BECAUSE IT WAS HIS PAST.
"WE'D JUST TAKEN OUT THAT ENCAMPMENT ON THE PASS. THE ONE THAT HAD GIVEN THE *SPETSNAZ* ALL THAT TROUBLE...?
"DON'T KNOW WHY I THOUGHT OF THAT JUST NOW."

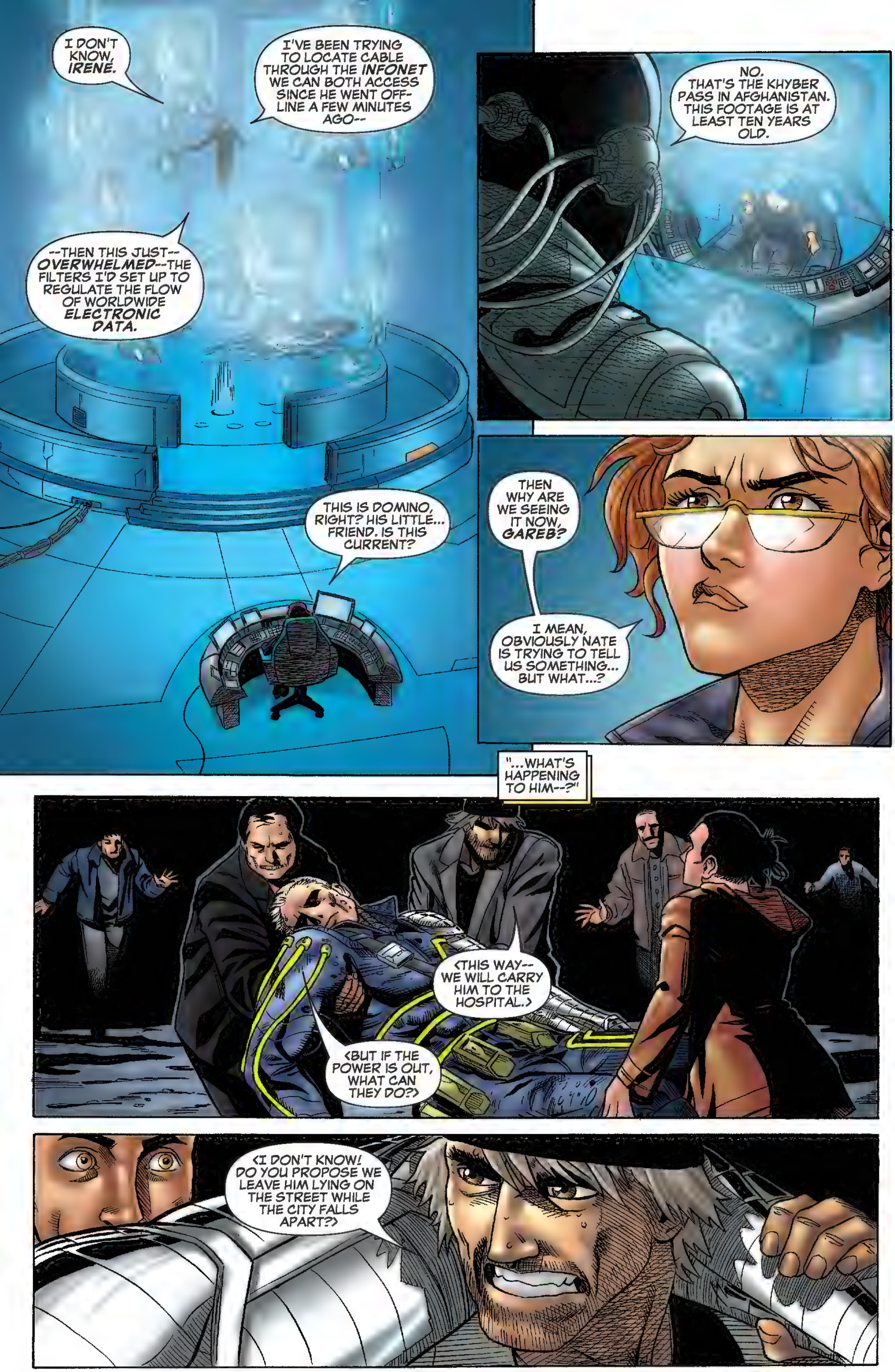

SURE YOU DO, **DOMINO.** BECAUSE THEN, LIKE NOW...
...YOU DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE ON THE RIGHT SIDE.
I WONDER WHY THAT IS, ***BRIDGE?***
CABLE ELIMINATED A TERRORIST REGIME THAT WAS RUNNING THIS COUNTRY.
HE TOOK OVER WITH THE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE RESISTANCE, AND IN TURN, THE PEOPLE.
HE SAID HE WOULD REMAIN IN POWER ONLY UNTIL THE COUNTRY COULD SUPPORT ***FREE ELECTIONS*** AND SET A DATE FOR THEM IN SIX MONTHS.
HE GOT THE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZED AND THE CITIZENS MOTIVATED.
IN TWO MONTHS, HE'S PROMOTED FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND NEGOTIATED ALLIANCES WITH BORDERING NATIONS.
AND HERE WE ARE, IN A ***SEWER,*** LOOKING TO DISRUPT THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WHO ***FINALLY*** HAVE SOME SEMBLANCE OF ***HOPE--***
--ALL SO THAT WE CAN MAKE NATE "LOOK BAD" BECAUSE HE MADE THE U.S. "LOOK BAD" IN FRONT OF A WORLD THAT IS REALLY STARTING TO LOOK BAD!
AND THEN THIS ***IDIOT*** COMPLETELY GOES AGAINST THE OPERATIONS BREAKDOWN AND SHOOTS NATE FROM ***BEHIND?***
I WAS WAITING FOR THE PART WHERE IT WOULD ALL BE MY FAULT...

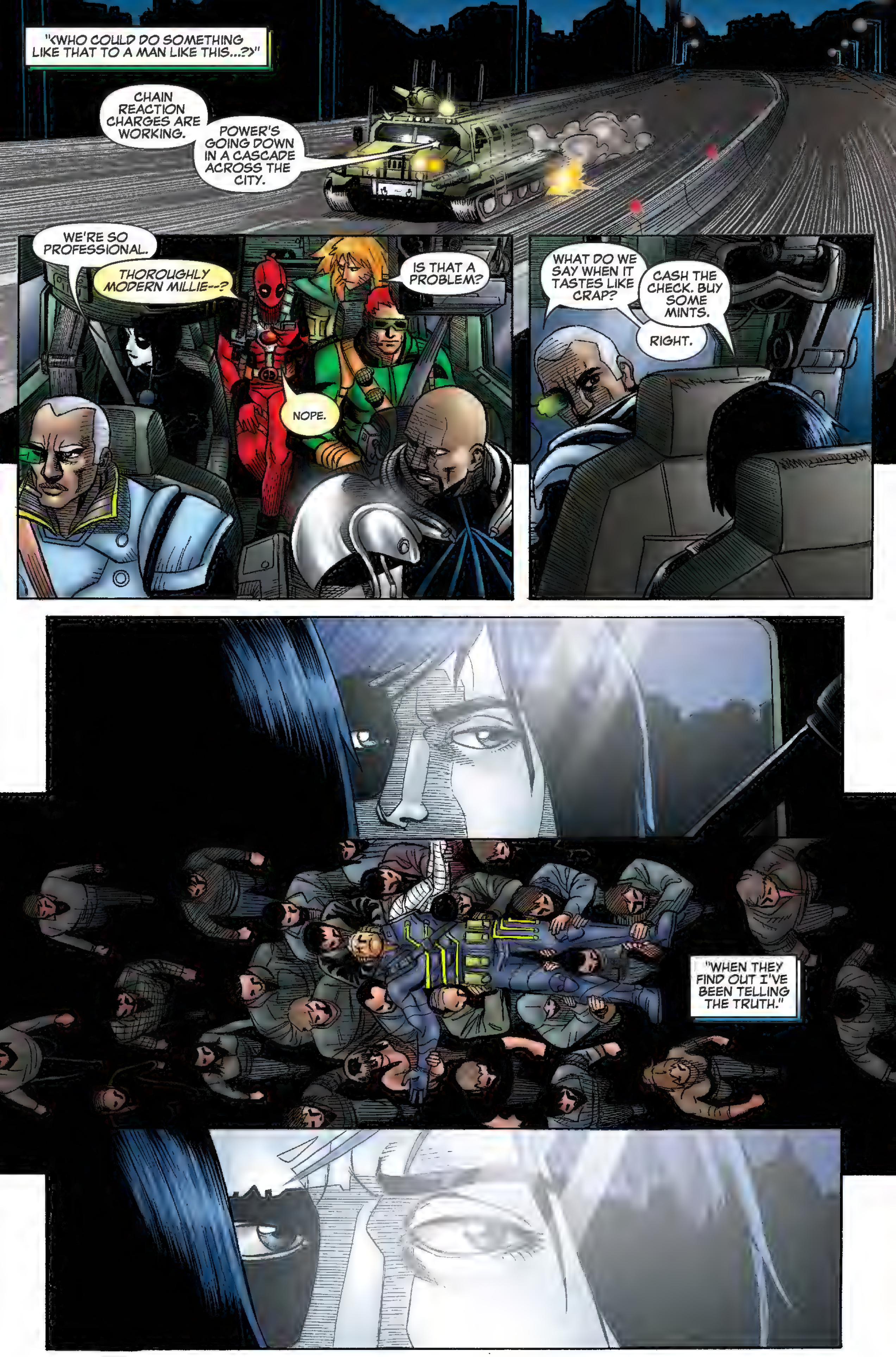

EVERYONE TAKE IT EASY...
DOM, I'M NOT THRILLED WITH DEADPOOL'S ACTIONS EITHER, BUT NATE IS ONLY ***STUNNED...*** GIVE OR TAKE A LITTLE BLUNT HEAD TRAUMA.
NOT LIKE HE HASN'T HAD A LITTLE BLUNT HEAD TRAUMA BEFORE, YOU KNOW!
SHUT UP!
GOD KNOWS I ***HAVE*** TRIED.
JUST ASK HIM.
'CAUSE IF YOU DON'T DROP THE LOAD, YOU'LL BE SEEING HIM IN A SECOND...
I DON'T EVEN CARE ENOUGH TO PLAY THE GAME.
LET'S JUST DO WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO AND GET THE HELL OUT.
GO TOPSIDE. TELL ***HAMMER*** WE'RE ROLLING IN THREE.
ANACONDA, SOLO--SET THE TIMER. WE'RE SENDING BARJNOV BACK TO THE STONE AGE.
NOT THAT IT'S GOT FAR TO GO...

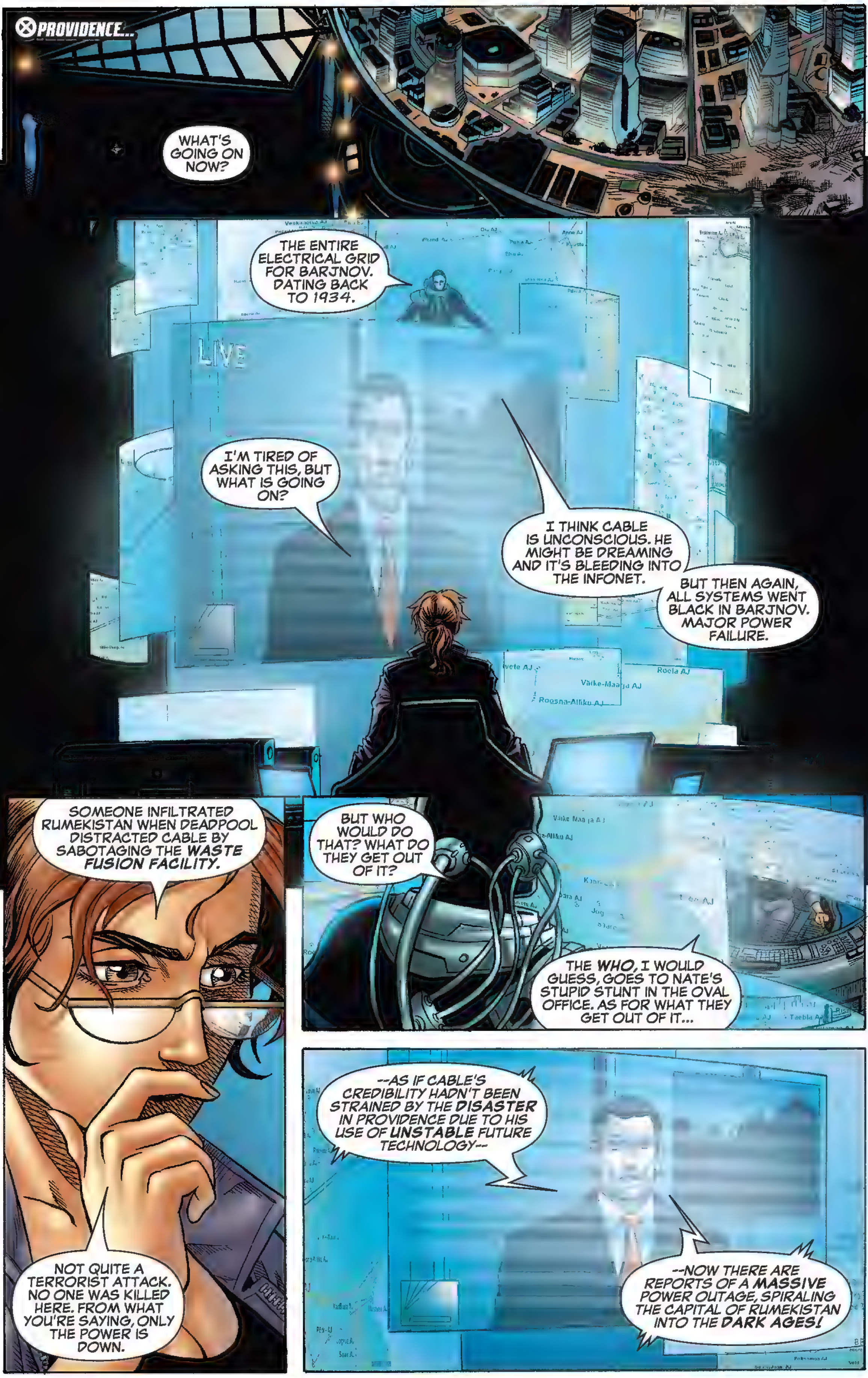

Небеса : Пйкера
ROLL IN THREE.
DOM, WE'RE ALL LINKED ON AN *OPEN COMM.* BRIDGE JUST WANTED TO SEPARATE YOU FROM *WILSON.*
I KNOW, HAMMER. JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS. THAT'S WHAT WE DO IN ORDER TO CASH THE CHECKS AND RATIONALIZE OUR ACTIONS, RIGHT?
PRETTY MUCH.
GOOD TO GO.
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT NATE? I MEAN, LEAVING HIM IN A PUDDLE OF *POOP* IS LOUSY EVEN BY MY STANDARDS.
BUT BORDER-LINE.
MOVEABLE *YOSEMITE SAM* LINE, *SURE*... BUT STILL... LEAVIN' HIM IN A *SEWER*...
GRRRMMMMM

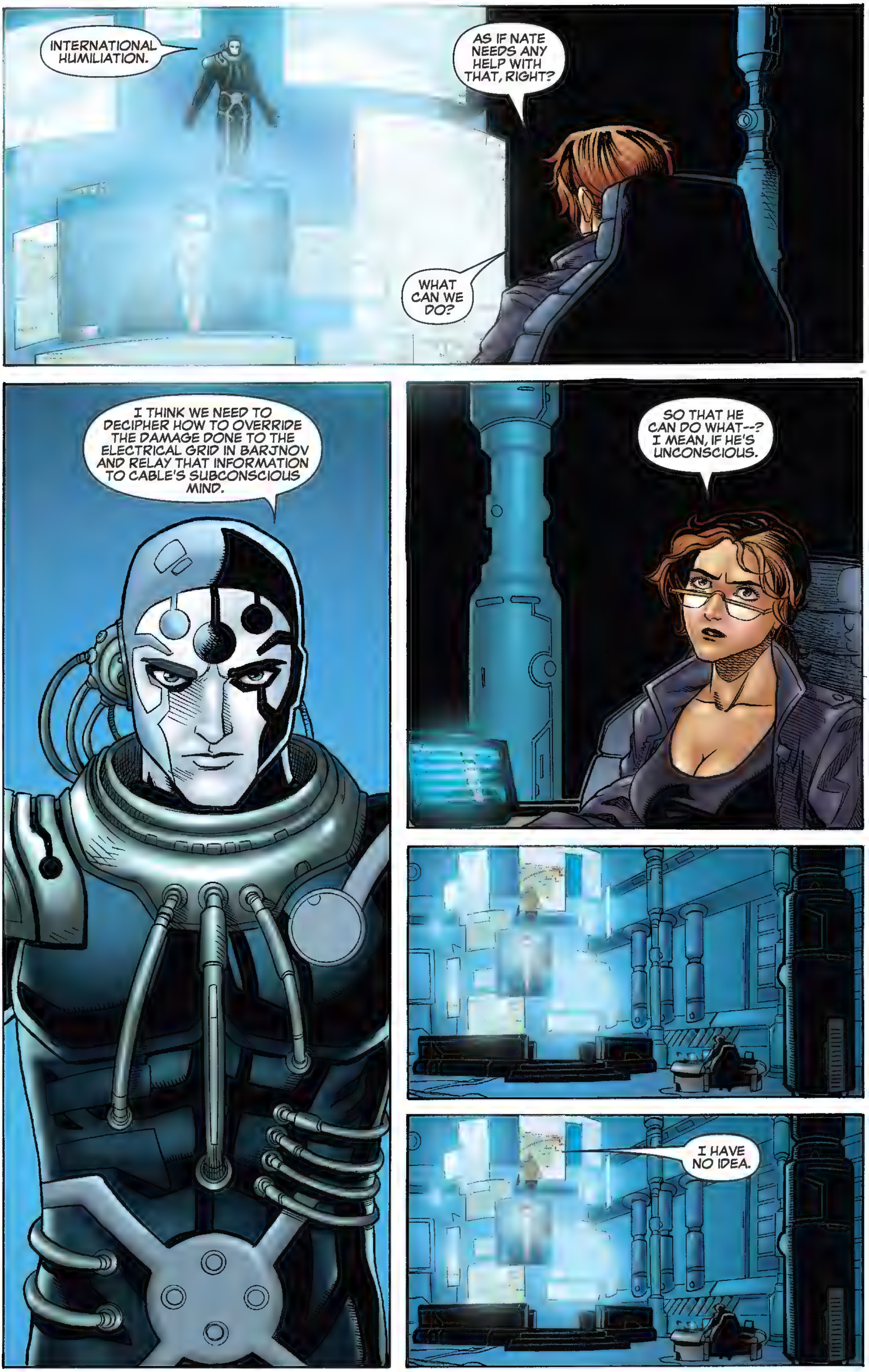

<IT IS HIM?>
<IS IT?>
<YES, I SAW HIM YESTERDAY AT THE LOADING DOCKS.>
<WHAT DO WE DO?>
<CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE?>
<CALL FOR A MECHANIC?>
<WHAT? I'M SERIOUS!>
BURRMMMMMM
<WHAT WAS THAT?>
<AN EXPLOSION, BUT IT CAME FROM BELOW US, DIDN'T IT?>
<NOW WHAT?>
<NOW I DON'T THINK WE CAN CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE.>
<THEN WHAT DO WE DO WITH CABLE?>
<I REALLY WASN'T JOKING ABOUT CALLING A MECHANIC. ISN'T HE HALF MACHINE OR SOMETHING?>

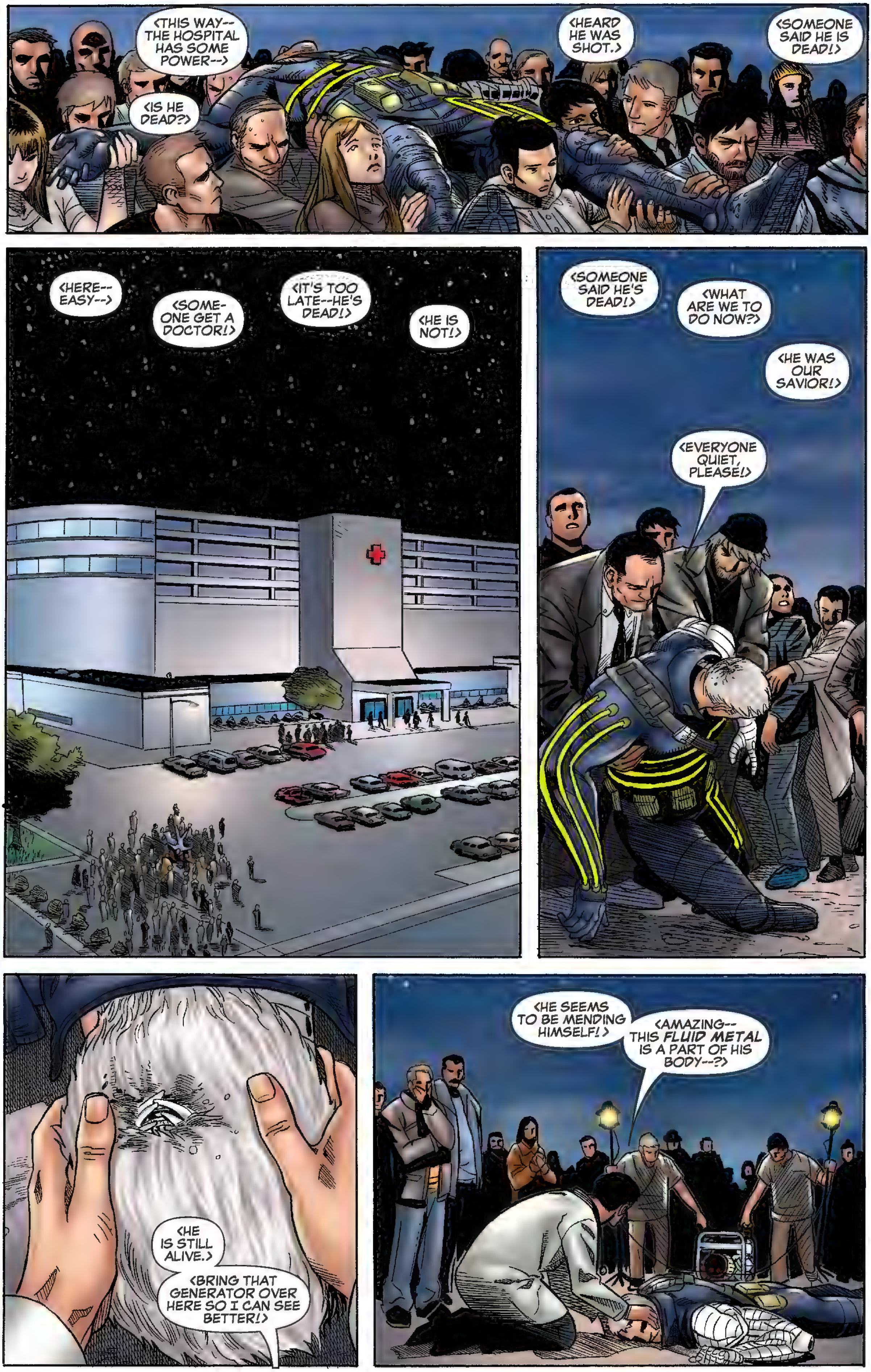

<WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE HIM...?>
OH, BECAUSE YOU CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE, RIGHT?
OR I CAN RECALL THE PAST.
YOU KNOW THE OTHERS MAKE FUN OF YOU FOR THAT.
FOR WHAT?
THE "KNOW-IT-ALL" MR. MYSTERY MAN FROM THE FUTURE B.S.
EVENTUALLY, THE JOKE WILL BE ON THEM.
AND WHEN WILL THAT BE?
WHEN THEY FIND OUT I'VE BEEN TELLING THE *TRUTH*.
PROVIDENCE...
WHAT IS GOING ON?

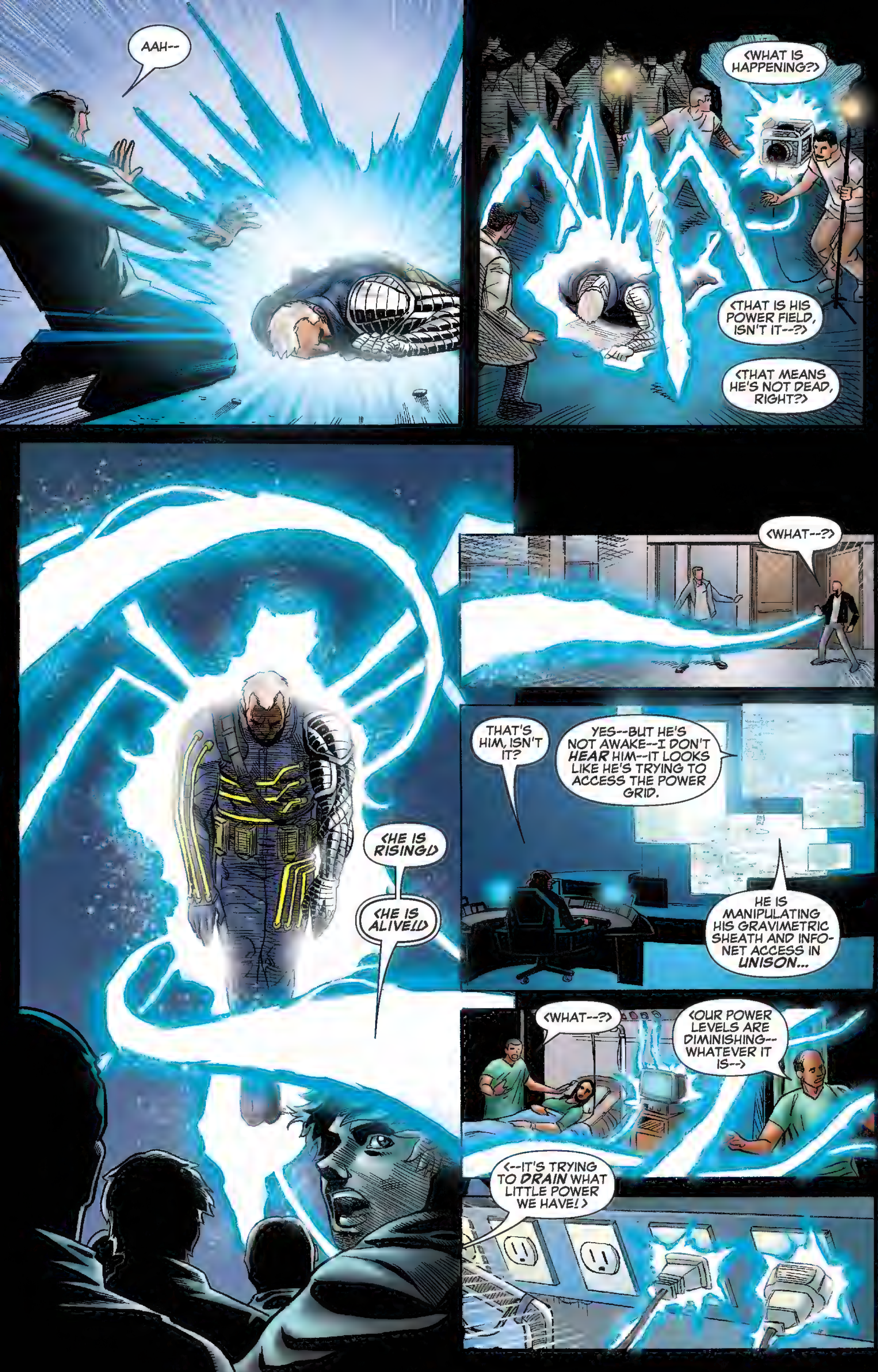

I DON'T KNOW, *IRENE.*
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO LOCATE CABLE THROUGH THE *INFONET* WE CAN BOTH ACCESS SINCE HE WENT OFF-LINE A FEW MINUTES AGO--
--THEN THIS JUST-- *OVERWHELMED*--THE FILTERS I'D SET UP TO REGULATE THE FLOW OF WORLDWIDE *ELECTRONIC DATA.*
THIS IS DOMINO, RIGHT? HIS LITTLE... FRIEND. IS THIS CURRENT?
NO. THAT'S THE KHYBER PASS IN AFGHANISTAN. THIS FOOTAGE IS AT LEAST TEN YEARS OLD.
THEN WHY ARE WE SEEING IT NOW, *GAREB?*
I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY NATE IS TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING... BUT WHAT...?
"...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM--?"
<THIS WAY-- WE WILL CARRY HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.>
<BUT IF THE POWER IS OUT, WHAT CAN THEY DO?>
<I DON'T KNOW! DO YOU PROPOSE WE LEAVE HIM LYING ON THE STREET WHILE THE CITY FALLS APART?>

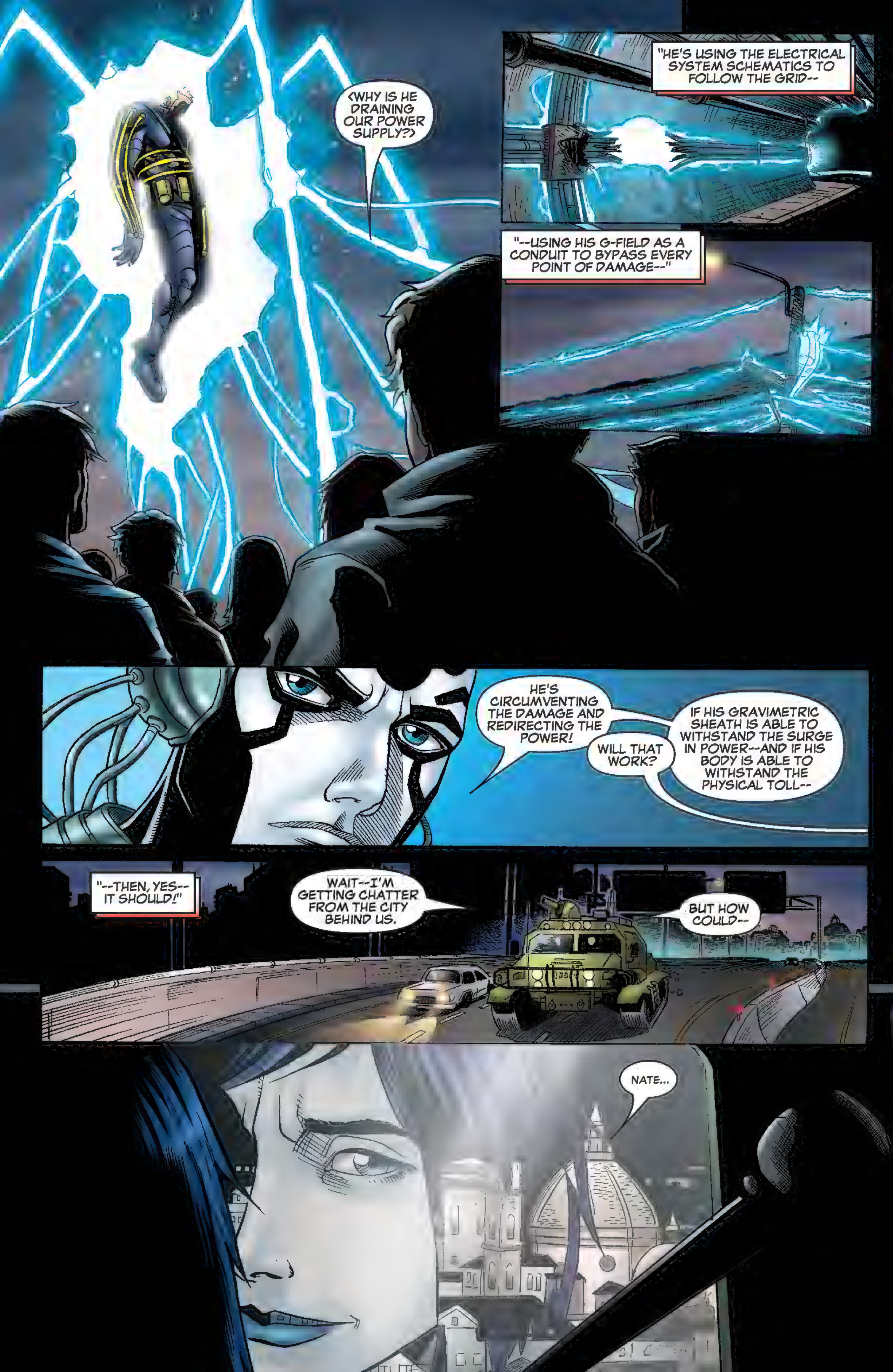

"<WHO COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO A MAN LIKE THIS...?>"
CHAIN REACTION CHARGES ARE WORKING.
POWER'S GOING DOWN IN A CASCADE ACROSS THE CITY.
WE'RE SO PROFESSIONAL.
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE--?
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
NOPE.
WHAT DO WE SAY WHEN IT TASTES LIKE CRAP?
CASH THE CHECK. BUY SOME MINTS.
RIGHT.
"WHEN THEY FIND OUT I'VE BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH."

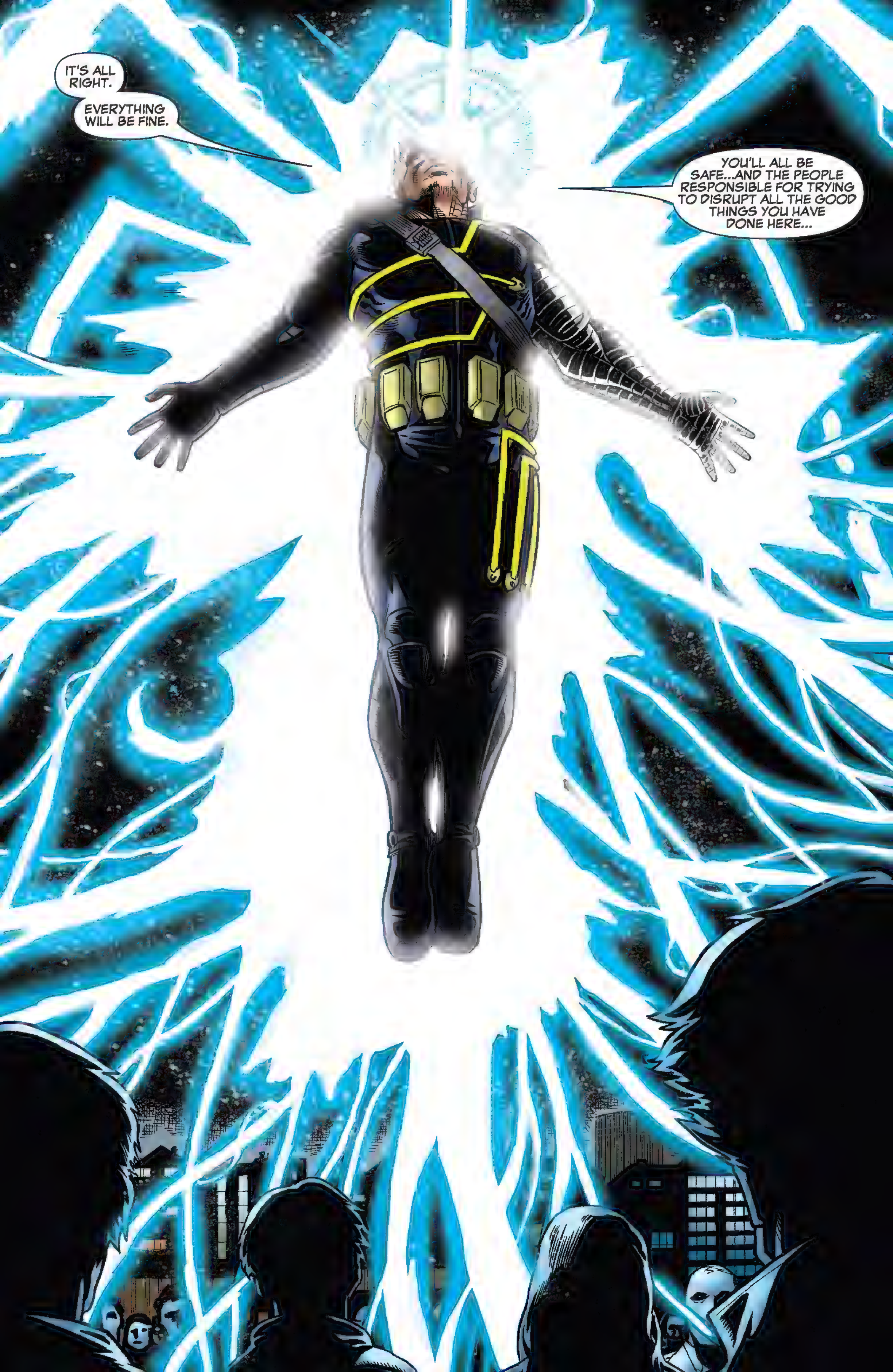

PROVIDENCE...
WHAT'S GOING ON NOW?
THE ENTIRE ELECTRICAL GRID FOR BARJNOV. DATING BACK TO 1934.
LIVE
I'M TIRED OF ASKING THIS, BUT WHAT IS GOING ON?
I THINK CABLE IS UNCONSCIOUS. HE MIGHT BE DREAMING AND IT'S BLEEDING INTO THE INFONET.
BUT THEN AGAIN, ALL SYSTEMS WENT BLACK IN BARJNOV. MAJOR POWER FAILURE.
SOMEONE INFILTRATED RUMEKISTAN WHEN DEADPOOL DISTRACTED CABLE BY SABOTAGING THE *WASTE FUSION FACILITY.*
NOT QUITE A TERRORIST ATTACK. NO ONE WAS KILLED HERE. FROM WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, ONLY THE POWER IS DOWN.
BUT WHO WOULD DO THAT? WHAT DO THEY GET OUT OF IT?
THE *WHO,* I WOULD GUESS, GOES TO NATE'S STUPID STUNT IN THE OVAL OFFICE. AS FOR WHAT THEY GET OUT OF IT...
--AS IF CABLE'S CREDIBILITY HADN'T BEEN STRAINED BY THE *DISASTER* IN PROVIDENCE DUE TO HIS USE OF *UNSTABLE* FUTURE TECHNOLOGY--
--NOW THERE ARE REPORTS OF A *MASSIVE* POWER OUTAGE, SPIRALING THE CAPITAL OF RUMEKISTAN INTO THE *DARK AGES!*

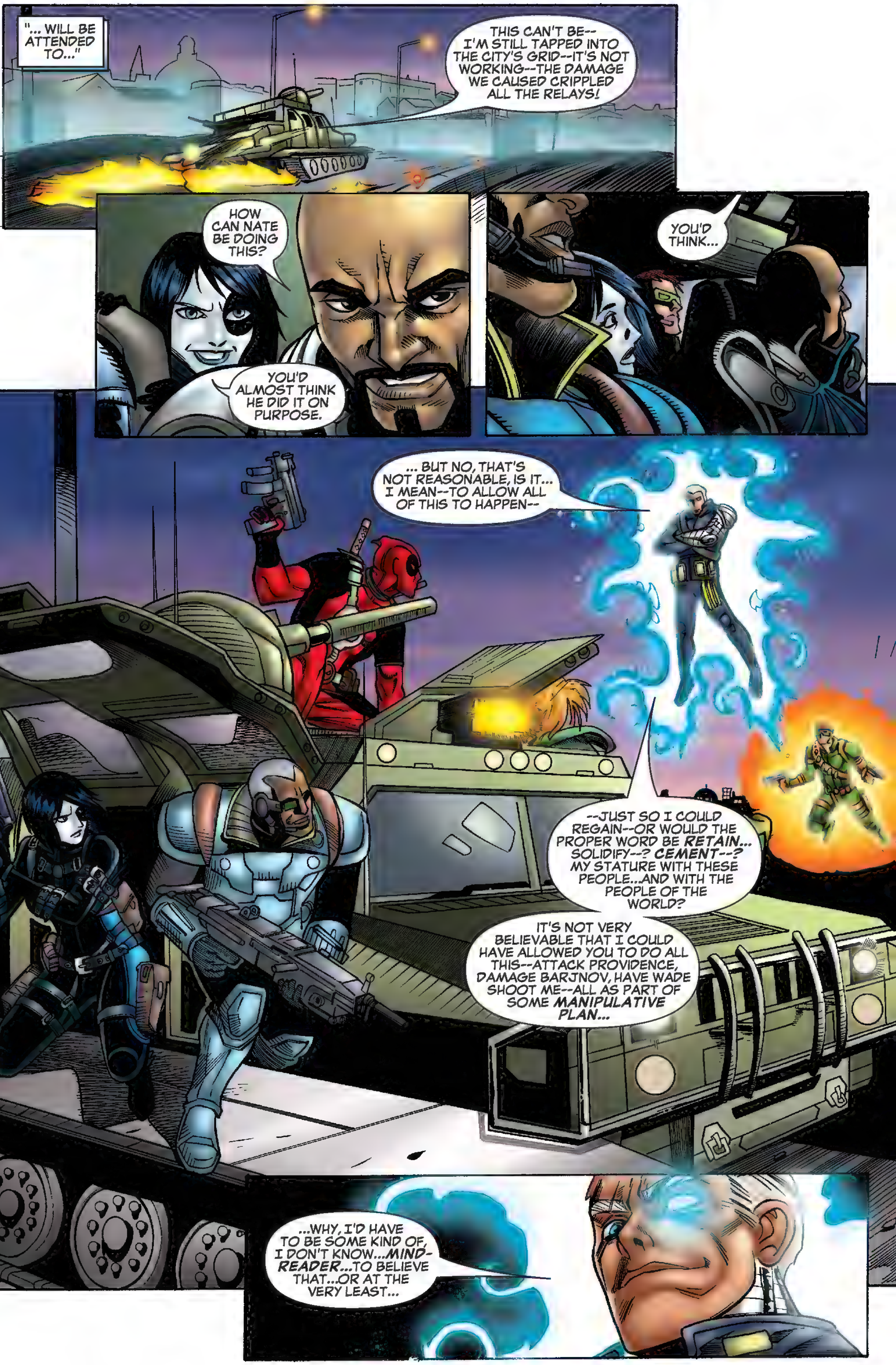

INTERNATIONAL HUMILIATION.
AS IF NATE NEEDS ANY HELP WITH THAT, RIGHT?
WHAT CAN WE DO?
I THINK WE NEED TO DECIPHER HOW TO OVERRIDE THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE ELECTRICAL GRID IN BARJNOV AND RELAY THAT INFORMATION TO CABLE'S SUBCONSCIOUS MIND.
SO THAT HE CAN DO WHAT--? I MEAN, IF HE'S UNCONSCIOUS.
I HAVE NO IDEA.

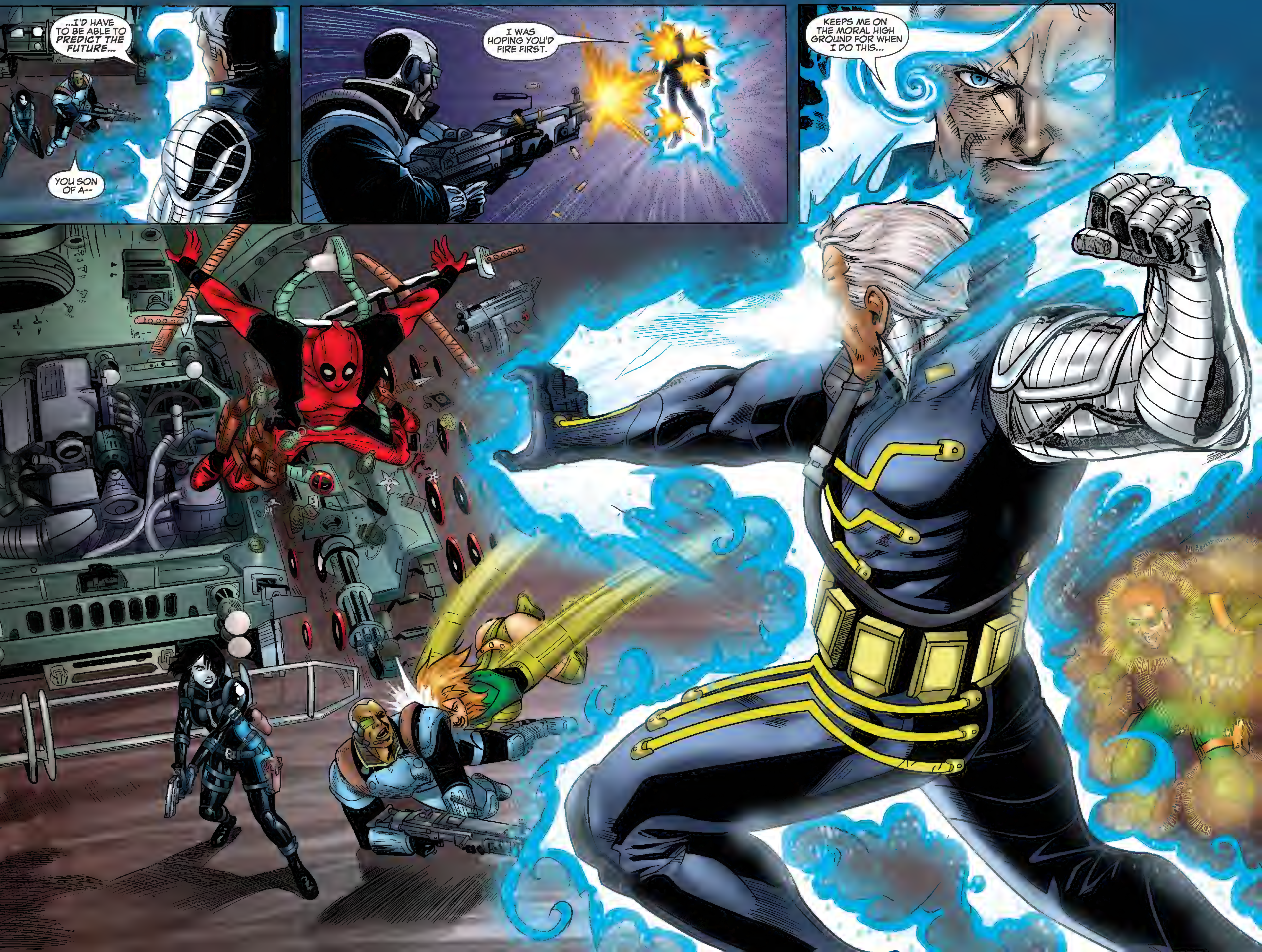


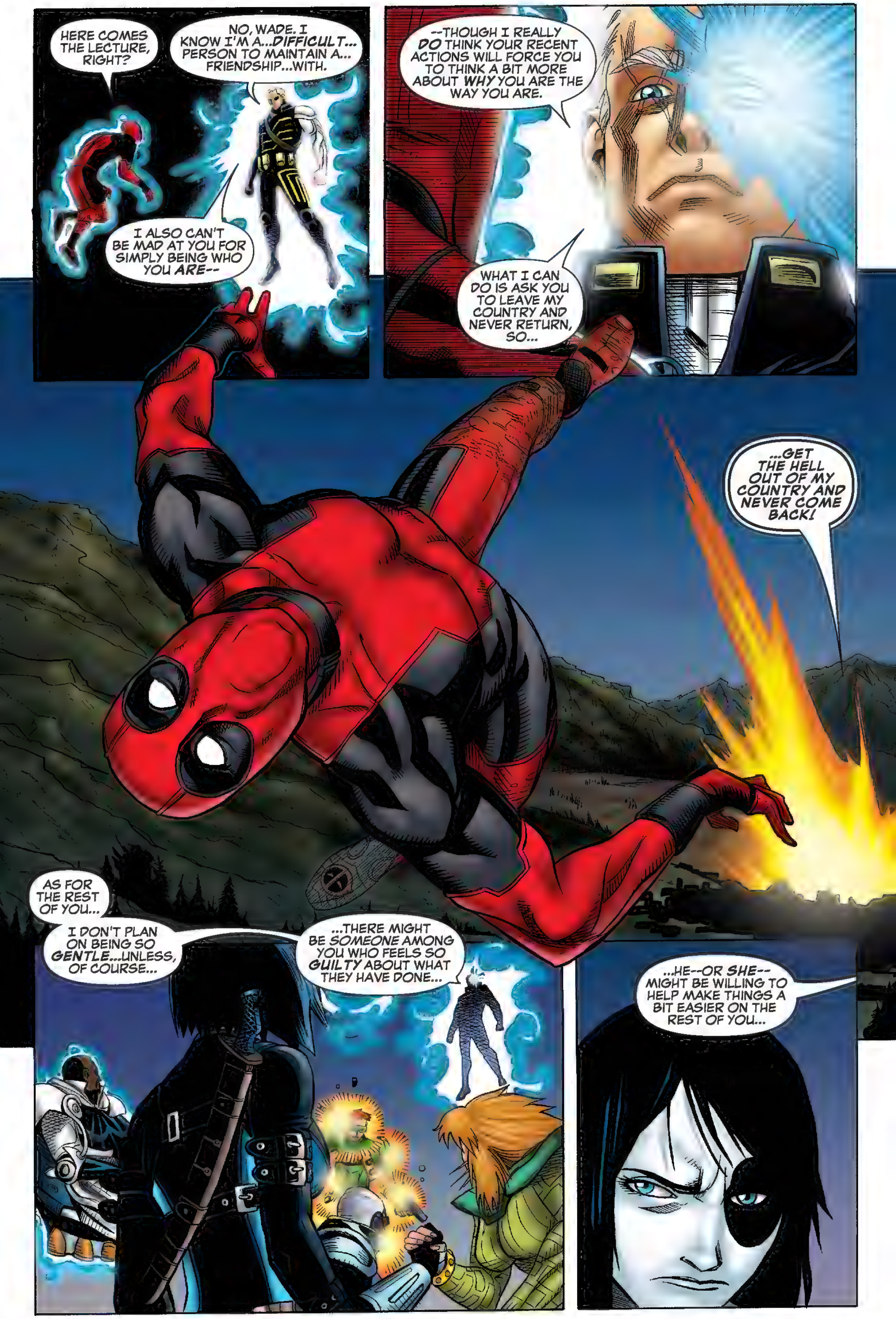

AAH--
<WHAT IS HAPPENING?>
<THAT IS HIS POWER FIELD, ISN'T IT--?>
<THAT MEANS HE'S NOT DEAD, RIGHT?>
<HE IS RISING!>
<HE IS ALIVE!>
<WHAT--?>
THAT'S HIM, ISN'T IT?
YES--BUT HE'S NOT AWAKE--I DON'T *HEAR* HIM--IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S TRYING TO ACCESS THE POWER GRID.
HE IS MANIPULATING HIS GRAVIMETRIC SHEATH AND INFO-NET ACCESS IN *UNISON...*
<WHAT--?>
<OUR POWER LEVELS ARE DIMINISHING--WHATEVER IT IS-->
<--IT'S TRYING TO *DRAIN* WHAT LITTLE POWER WE HAVE!>

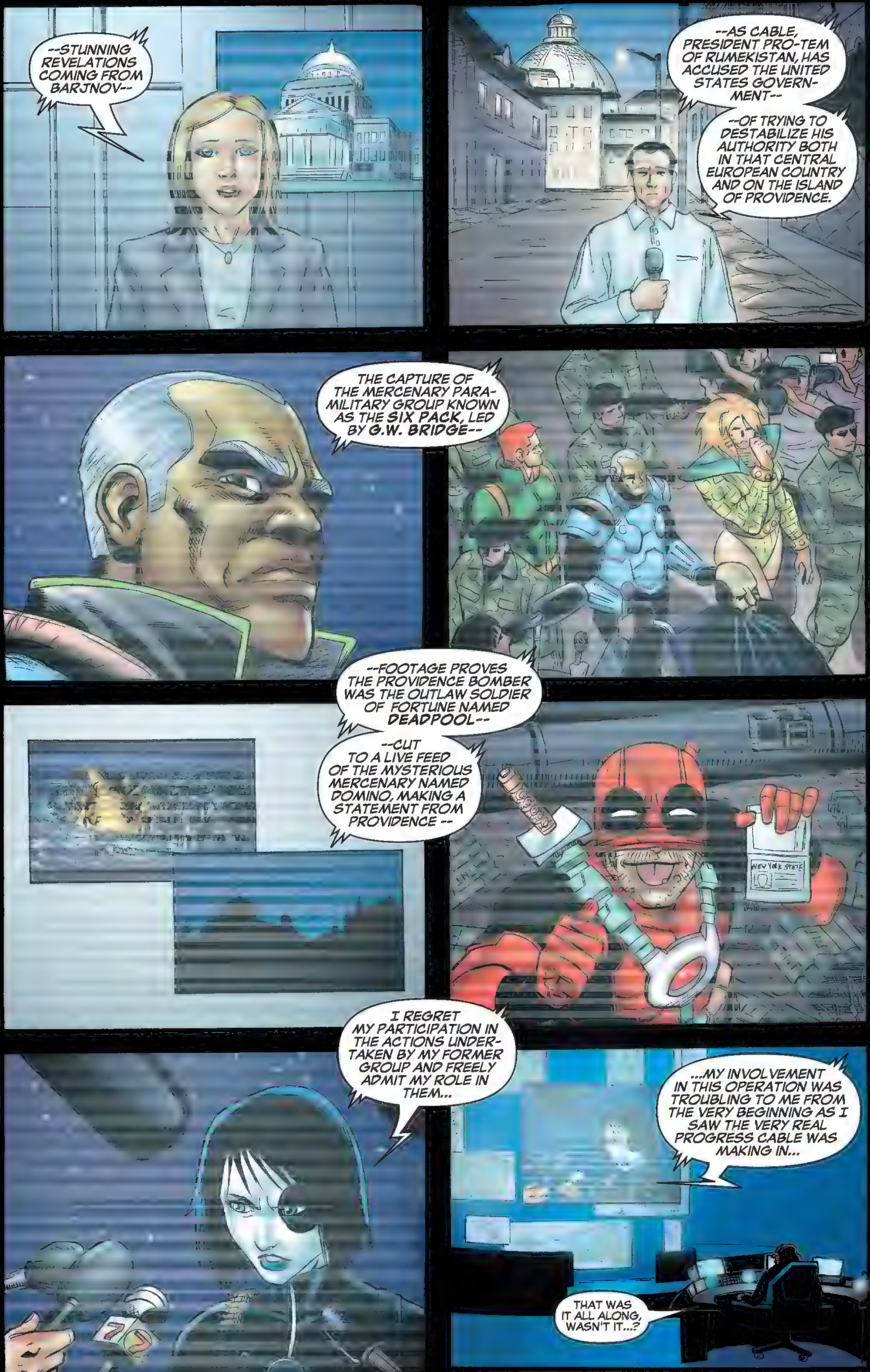

<WHY IS HE DRAINING OUR POWER SUPPLY?>
"HE'S USING THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM SCHEMATICS TO FOLLOW THE GRID--
"--USING HIS G-FIELD AS A CONDUIT TO BYPASS EVERY POINT OF DAMAGE--"
HE'S CIRCUMVENTING THE DAMAGE AND REDIRECTING THE POWER!
WILL THAT WORK?
IF HIS GRAVIMETRIC SHEATH IS ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE SURGE IN POWER--AND IF HIS BODY IS ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PHYSICAL TOLL--
"--THEN, YES--IT SHOULD!"
WAIT--I'M GETTING CHATTER FROM THE CITY BEHIND US.
BUT HOW COULD--
NATE...


IT'S ALL RIGHT.
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
YOU'LL ALL BE SAFE...AND THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRYING TO DISRUPT ALL THE GOOD THINGS YOU HAVE DONE HERE...

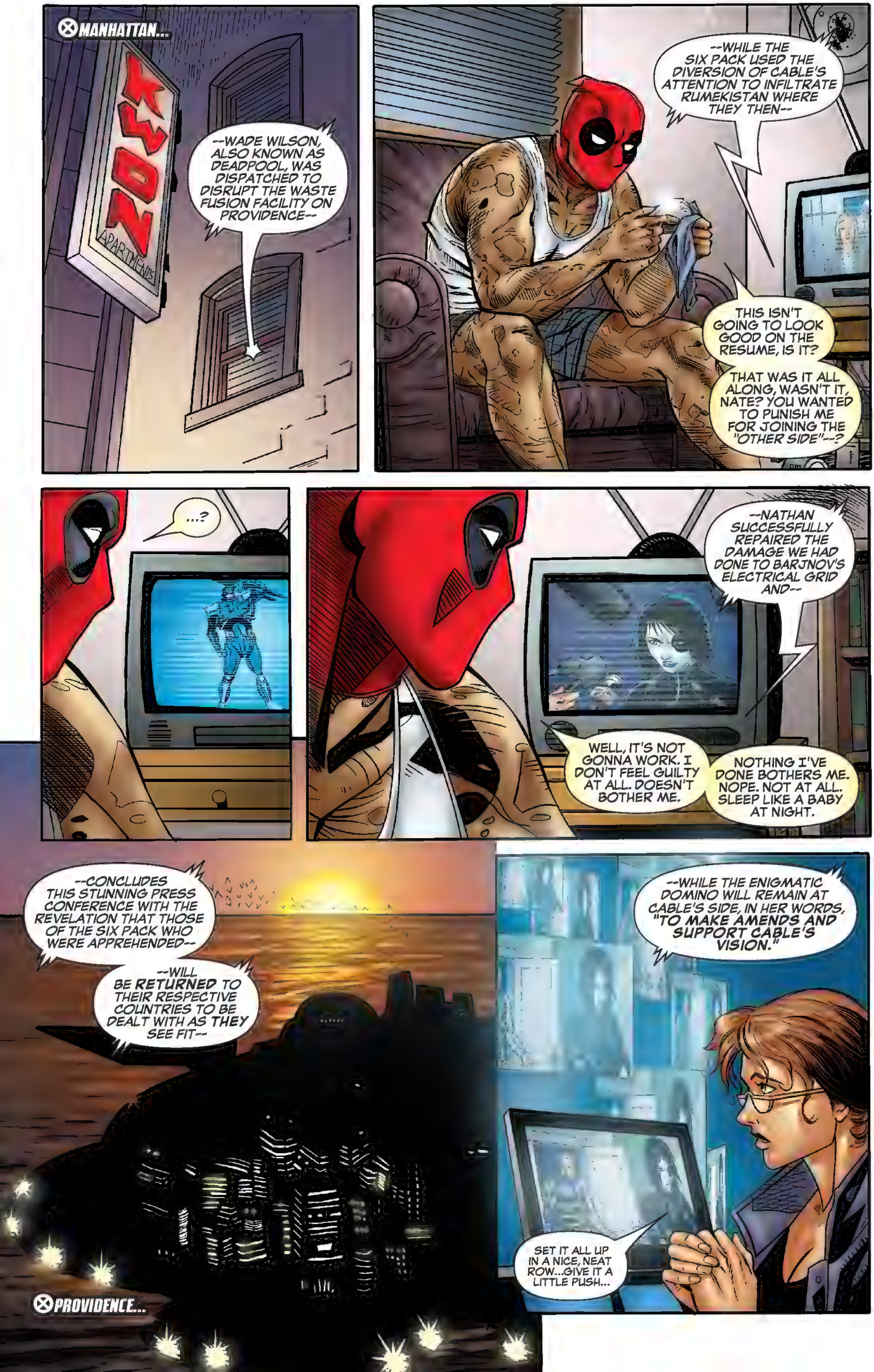

"... WILL BE ATTENDED TO..."
THIS CAN'T BE-- I'M STILL TAPPED INTO THE CITY'S GRID--IT'S NOT WORKING--THE DAMAGE WE CAUSED CRIPPLED ALL THE RELAYS!
HOW CAN NATE BE DOING THIS?
YOU'D ALMOST THINK HE DID IT ON PURPOSE.
YOU'D THINK...
... BUT NO, THAT'S NOT REASONABLE, IS IT... I MEAN--TO ALLOW ALL OF THIS TO HAPPEN--
--JUST SO I COULD REGAIN--OR WOULD THE PROPER WORD BE ***RETAIN***... SOLIDIFY--? ***CEMENT***--? MY STATURE WITH THESE PEOPLE...AND WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD?
IT'S NOT VERY BELIEVABLE THAT I COULD HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO DO ALL THIS--ATTACK PROVIDENCE, DAMAGE BARJNOV, HAVE WADE SHOOT ME--ALL AS PART OF SOME ***MANIPULATIVE PLAN***...
...WHY, I'D HAVE TO BE SOME KIND OF, I DON'T KNOW...***MIND-READER***...TO BELIEVE THAT...OR AT THE VERY LEAST...

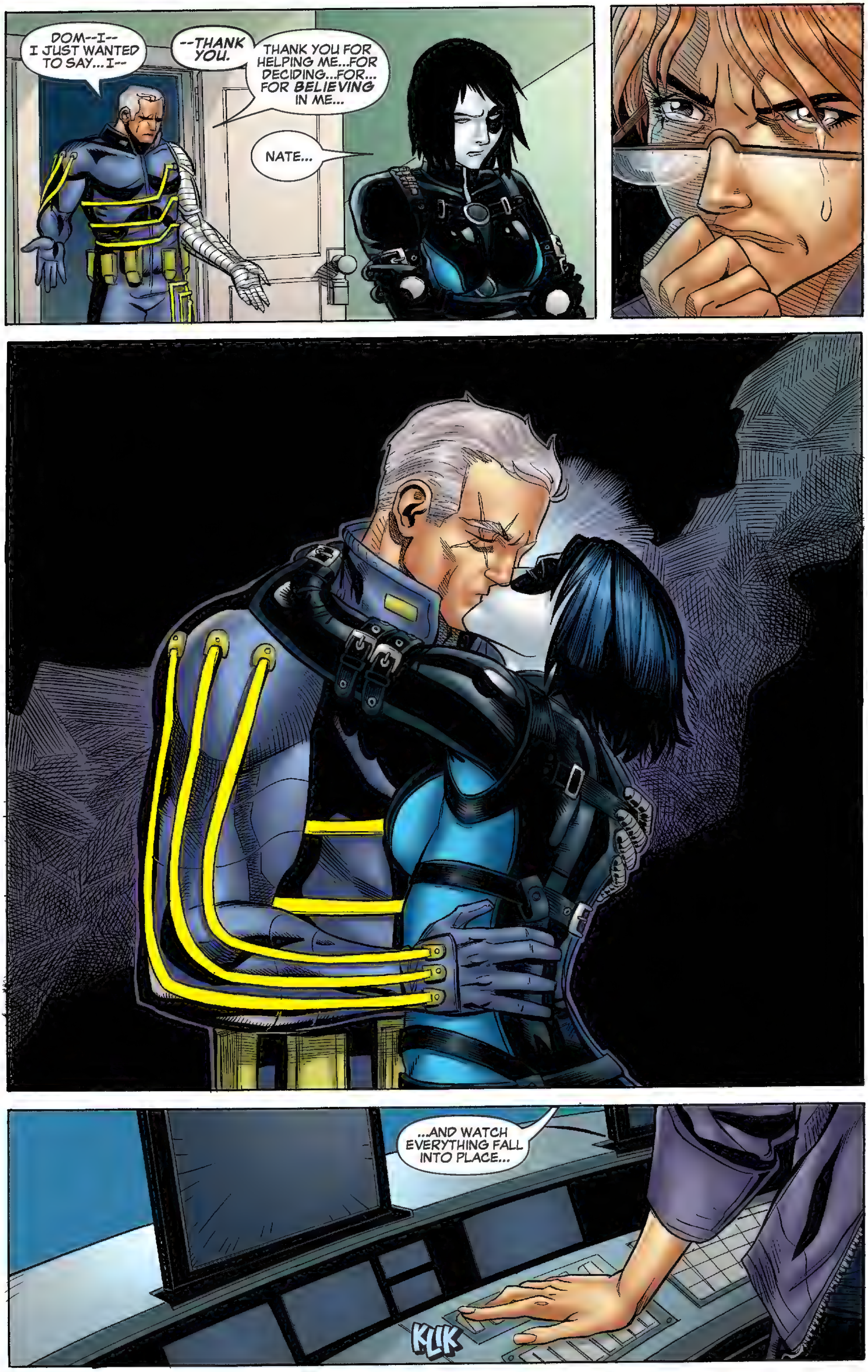

...I'D HAVE TO BE ABLE TO *PREDICT THE FUTURE*...
YOU SON OF A--
I WAS HOPING YOU'D FIRE FIRST.
KEEPS ME ON THE MORAL HIGH GROUND FOR WHEN I DO THIS...


HERE COMES THE LECTURE, RIGHT?
NO, WADE. I KNOW I'M A...*DIFFICULT*... PERSON TO MAINTAIN A... FRIENDSHIP...WITH.
I ALSO CAN'T BE MAD AT YOU FOR SIMPLY BEING WHO YOU *ARE*--
--THOUGH I REALLY *DO* THINK YOUR RECENT ACTIONS WILL FORCE YOU TO THINK A BIT MORE ABOUT *WHY* YOU ARE THE WAY YOU ARE.
WHAT I CAN DO IS ASK YOU TO LEAVE MY COUNTRY AND NEVER RETURN, SO...
...GET THE HELL OUT OF MY COUNTRY AND NEVER COME BACK!
AS FOR THE REST OF YOU...
I DON'T PLAN ON BEING SO *GENTLE*...UNLESS, OF COURSE...
...THERE MIGHT BE *SOMEONE* AMONG YOU WHO FEELS SO *GUILTY* ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE DONE...
...HE--OR *SHE*-- MIGHT BE WILLING TO HELP MAKE THINGS A BIT EASIER ON THE REST OF YOU...



--STUNNING REVELATIONS COMING FROM BARJNOV--
--AS CABLE, PRESIDENT PRO-TEM OF RUMEKISTAN, HAS ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT--
--OF TRYING TO DESTABILIZE HIS AUTHORITY BOTH IN THAT CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRY AND ON THE ISLAND OF PROVIDENCE.
THE CAPTURE OF THE MERCENARY PARAMILITARY GROUP KNOWN AS THE **SIX PACK**, LED BY **G.W. BRIDGE**--
--FOOTAGE PROVES THE PROVIDENCE BOMBER WAS THE OUTLAW SOLDIER OF FORTUNE NAMED **DEADPOOL**--
--CUT TO A LIVE FEED OF THE MYSTERIOUS MERCENARY NAMED DOMINO, MAKING A STATEMENT FROM PROVIDENCE --
NEW YORK STATE
I REGRET MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY MY FORMER GROUP AND FREELY ADMIT MY ROLE IN THEM...
...MY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS OPERATION WAS TROUBLING TO ME FROM THE VERY BEGINNING AS I SAW THE VERY REAL PROGRESS CABLE WAS MAKING IN...
THAT WAS IT ALL ALONG, WASN'T IT...?


MANHATTAN...
KWON APARTMENTS
--WADE WILSON, ALSO KNOWN AS DEADPOOL, WAS DISPATCHED TO DISRUPT THE WASTE FUSION FACILITY ON PROVIDENCE--
--WHILE THE SIX PACK USED THE DIVERSION OF CABLE'S ATTENTION TO INFILTRATE RUMEKISTAN WHERE THEY THEN--
THIS ISN'T GOING TO LOOK GOOD ON THE RESUME, IS IT?
THAT WAS IT ALL ALONG, WASN'T IT, NATE? YOU WANTED TO PUNISH ME FOR JOINING THE "OTHER SIDE"--?
...?
--NATHAN SUCCESSFULLY REPAIRED THE DAMAGE WE HAD DONE TO BARJNOV'S ELECTRICAL GRID AND--
WELL, IT'S NOT GONNA WORK. I DON'T FEEL GUILTY AT ALL. DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
NOTHING I'VE DONE BOTHERS ME. NOPE. NOT AT ALL. SLEEP LIKE A BABY AT NIGHT.
--CONCLUDES THIS STUNNING PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE REVELATION THAT THOSE OF THE SIX PACK WHO WERE APPREHENDED--
--WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES TO BE DEALT WITH AS THEY SEE FIT--
PROVIDENCE...
--WHILE THE ENIGMATIC DOMINO WILL REMAIN AT CABLE'S SIDE, IN HER WORDS, "TO MAKE AMENDS AND SUPPORT CABLE'S VISION."
SET IT ALL UP IN A NICE, NEAT ROW...GIVE IT A LITTLE PUSH...


DOM--I-- I JUST WANTED TO SAY...I--
--THANK YOU.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME...FOR DECIDING...FOR... FOR BELIEVING IN ME...
NATE...
...AND WATCH EVERYTHING FALL INTO PLACE...
KLIK

DEAR DEADPOOL

ightcap
W
lson

I get an e-mail from Nicole, and I'm all a-twitter, thinking, letters page time! Then I open the e-mail and this is what I get:

"We don't have enough good letters for a letters page in 34, but I'm loath to lose an opportunity for self-promotion.

"So instead, we could do a 'next issue' page with the cover for 35; all we need is a blurb. You get first dibs on writing it if you want."

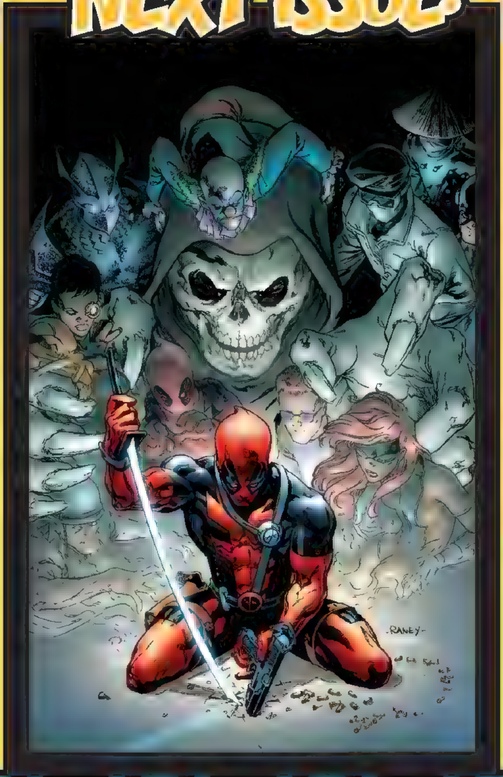
And yes, she did say "loath" in a casual sentence.

Anyway, I wanna yell at all of you for not sending us enough letters! What's the dilly-o – we know most of you are dying to have me make fun of you in print, so... c'mon and write!

We got voted "Funniest Letters Page" in comics by WIZARD magazine, for crying out loud! Okay, for all I know, we might be the ONLY letters page in comics, but still, you all have to keep up your end, cause Lordy knows, I can keep up mine...

Heh-heh. You get it, right? Maybe the lawyers won't.

NEXT ISSUE:



So, there's the next issue cover. Oooh, Tom Raney is drawin' me. Cool.

Wait a sec--what's with me all screaming and crying there? When Cable gets a cover spotlight, he's all Messiah Cool-Boy--

--when I get one I'm on my knees like a stuck pig all boo-hoo crying `cause a bunch of ghosts are scaring me?

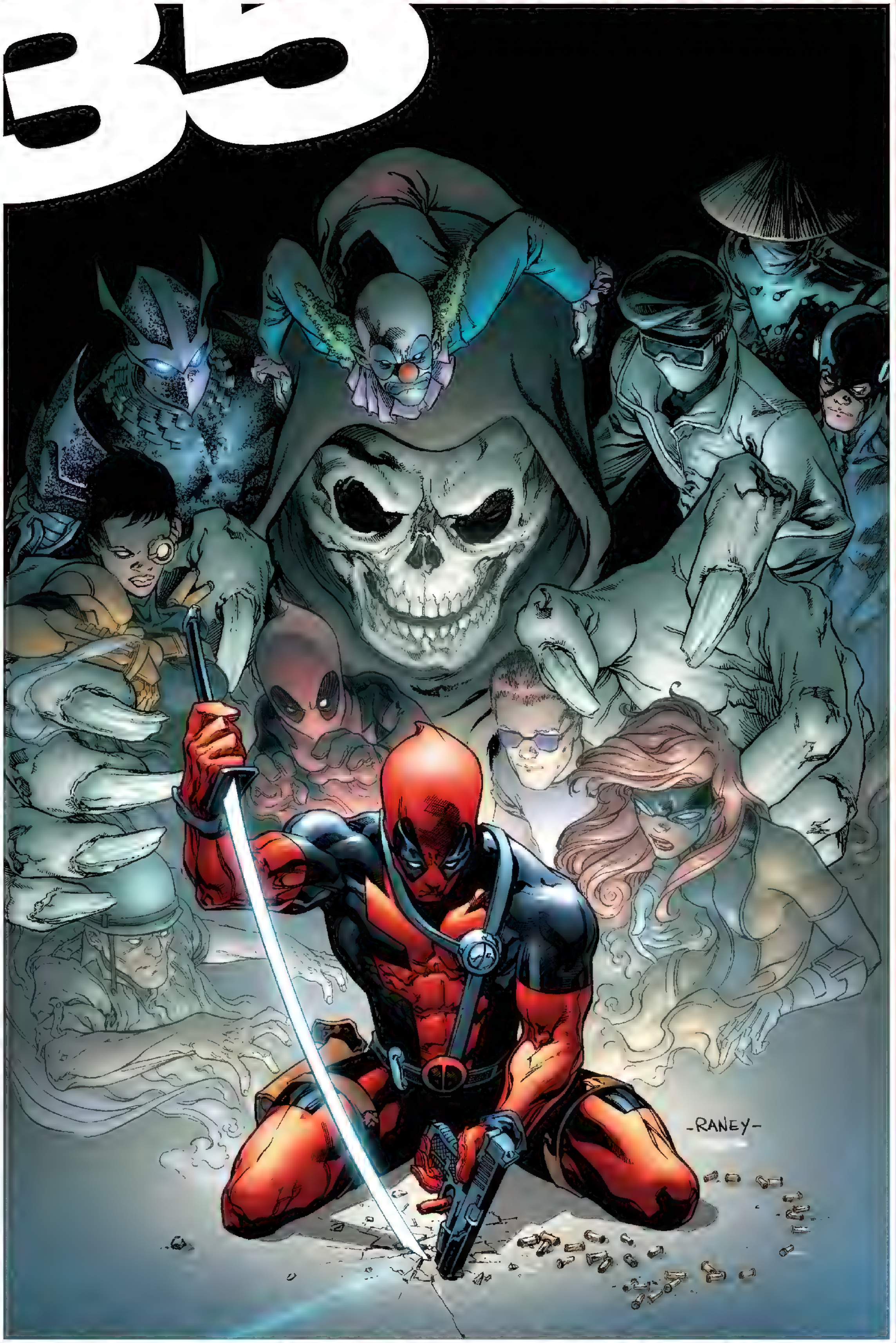
I get no respect. None. I fought Dr. Bong, for crying out loud! I got me a rogues' gallery, that deserves some respect--instead, I get ghosts?

All I can say, Nicole, is next ish better be some kinda epilogue wrap-up to this dumb storyline and a prologue to a cool arc featuring mostly just me, is all I'm saying...

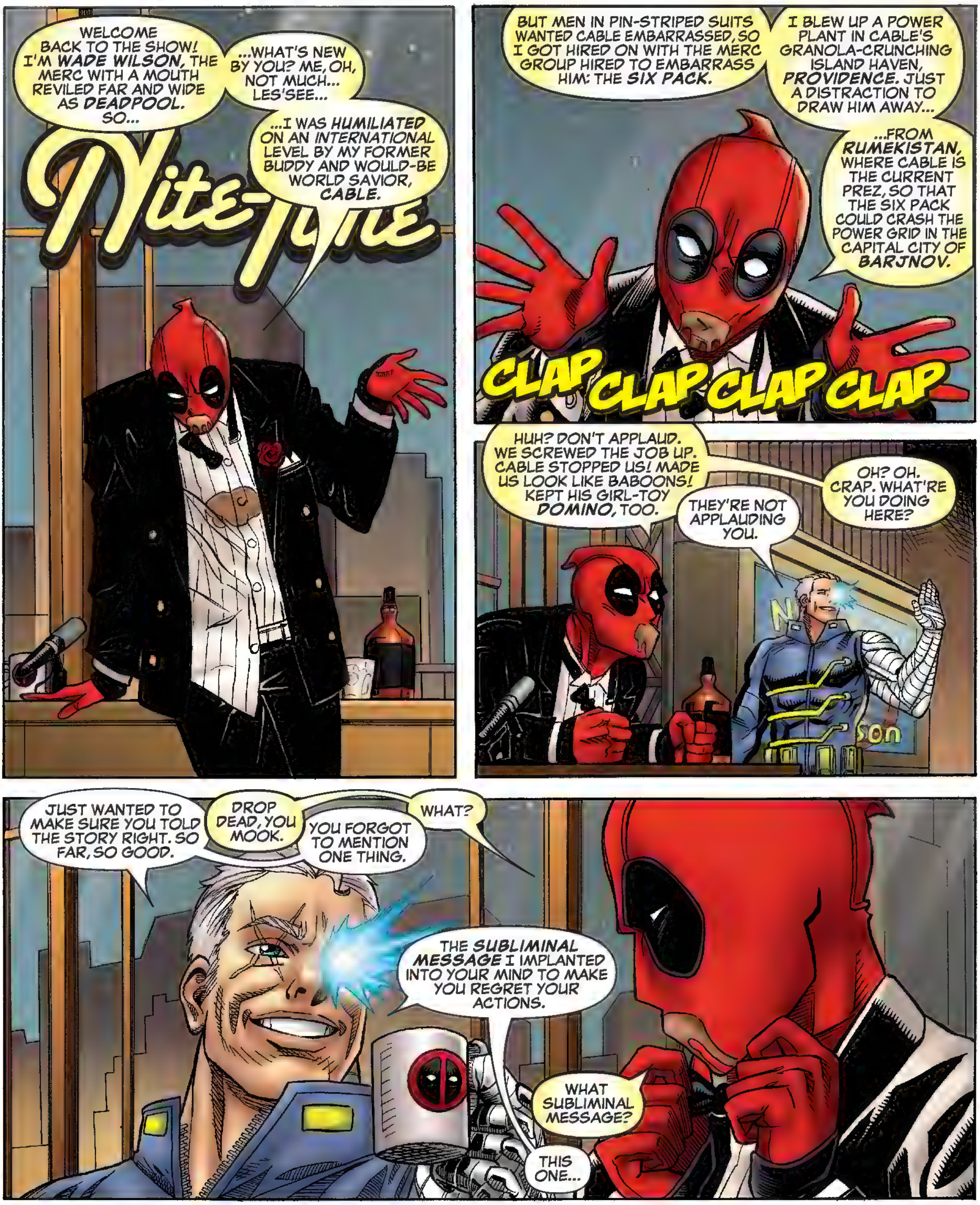
Anyway, see you all next month – and you BETTER write or I'll re-establish my rep by stepping on your faces!

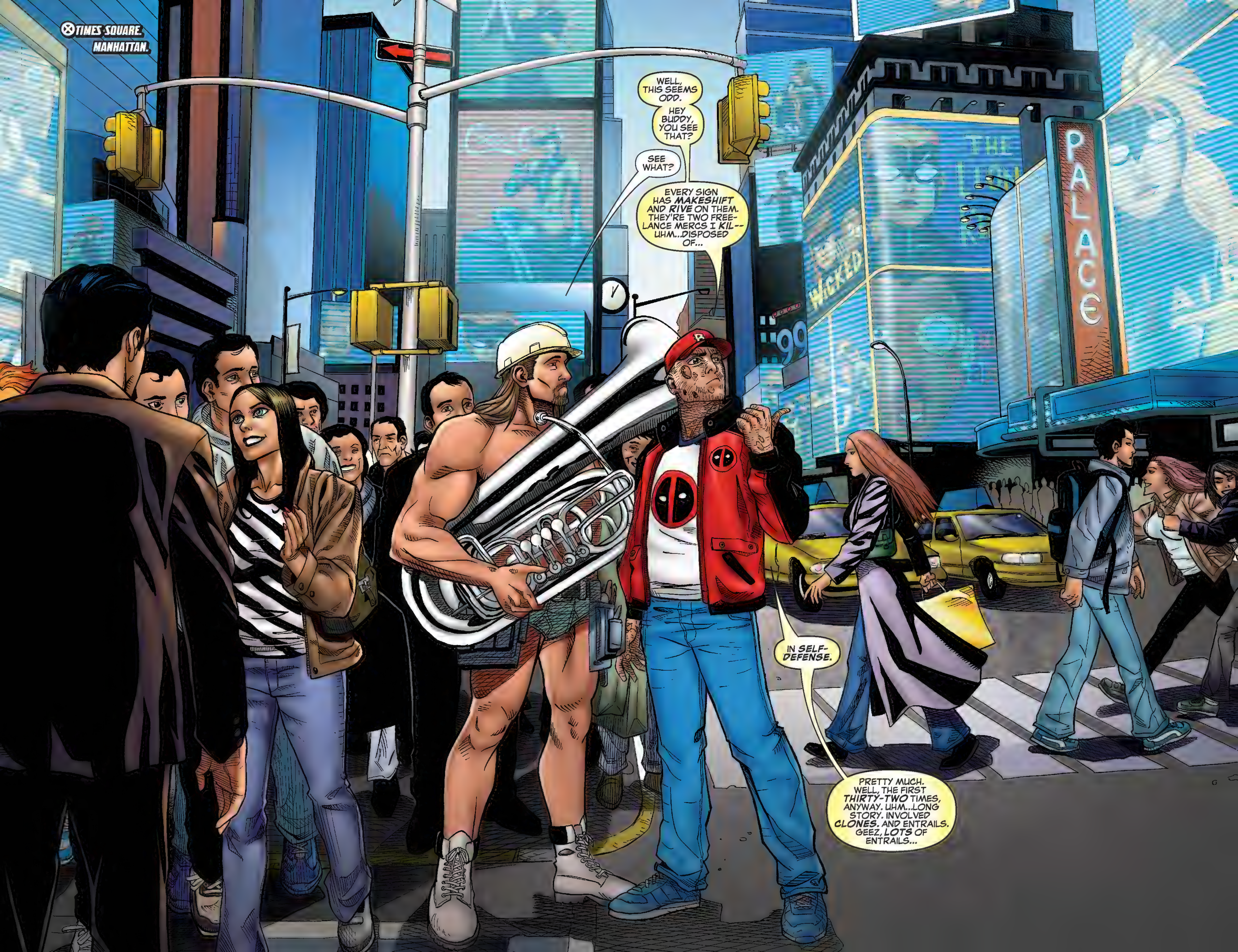
-Deadpool

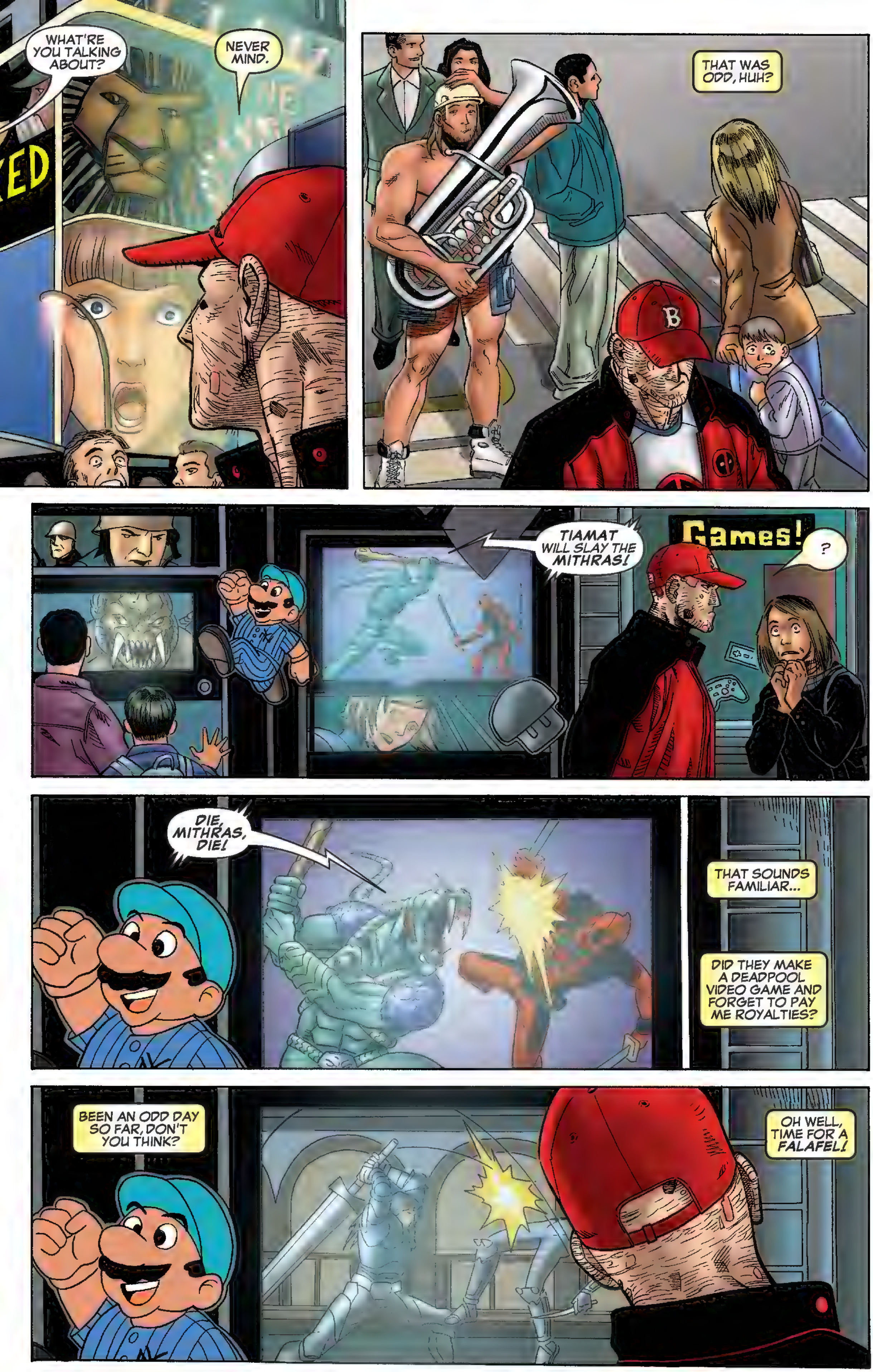
35

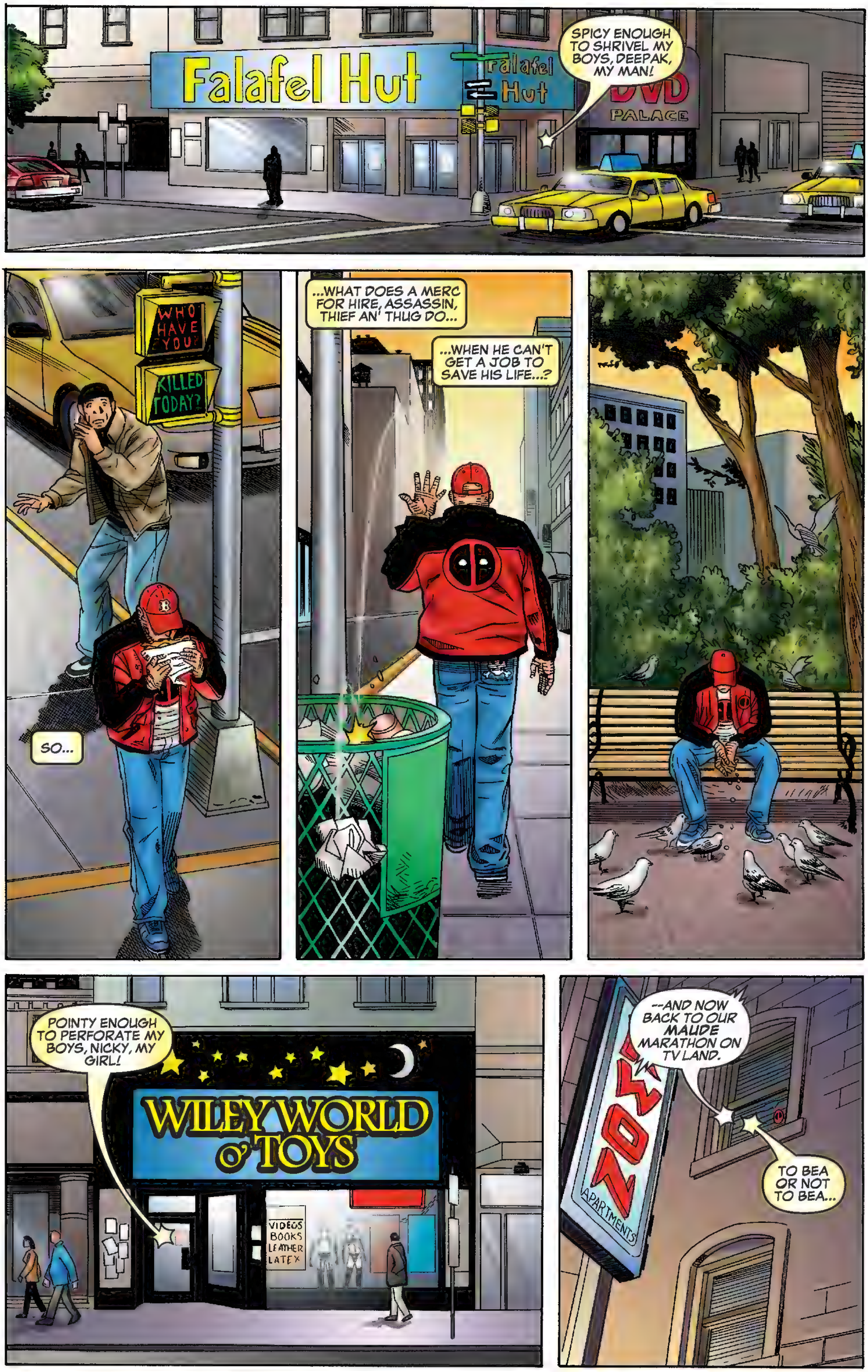


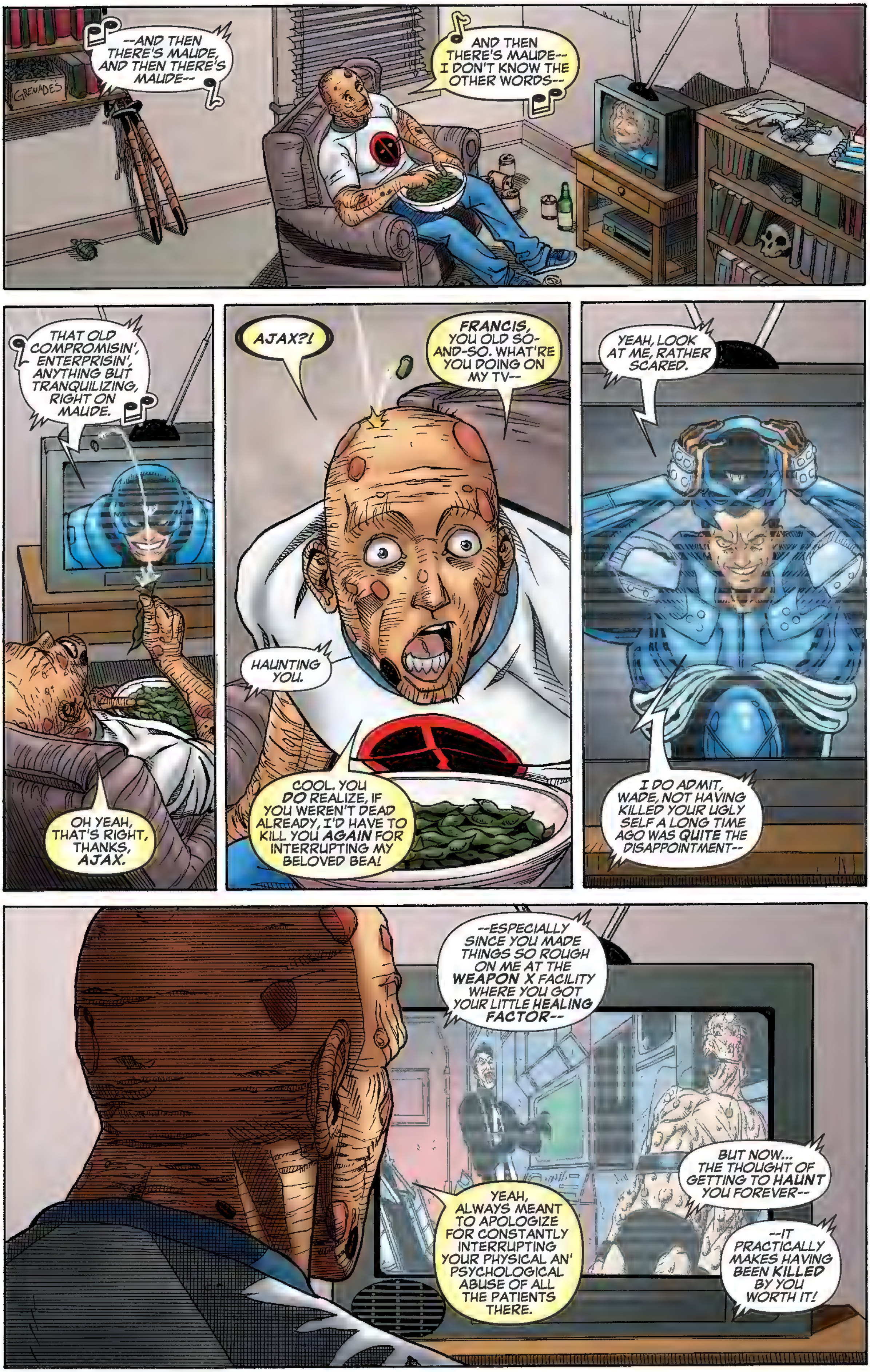
PAST INDISCRETIONS

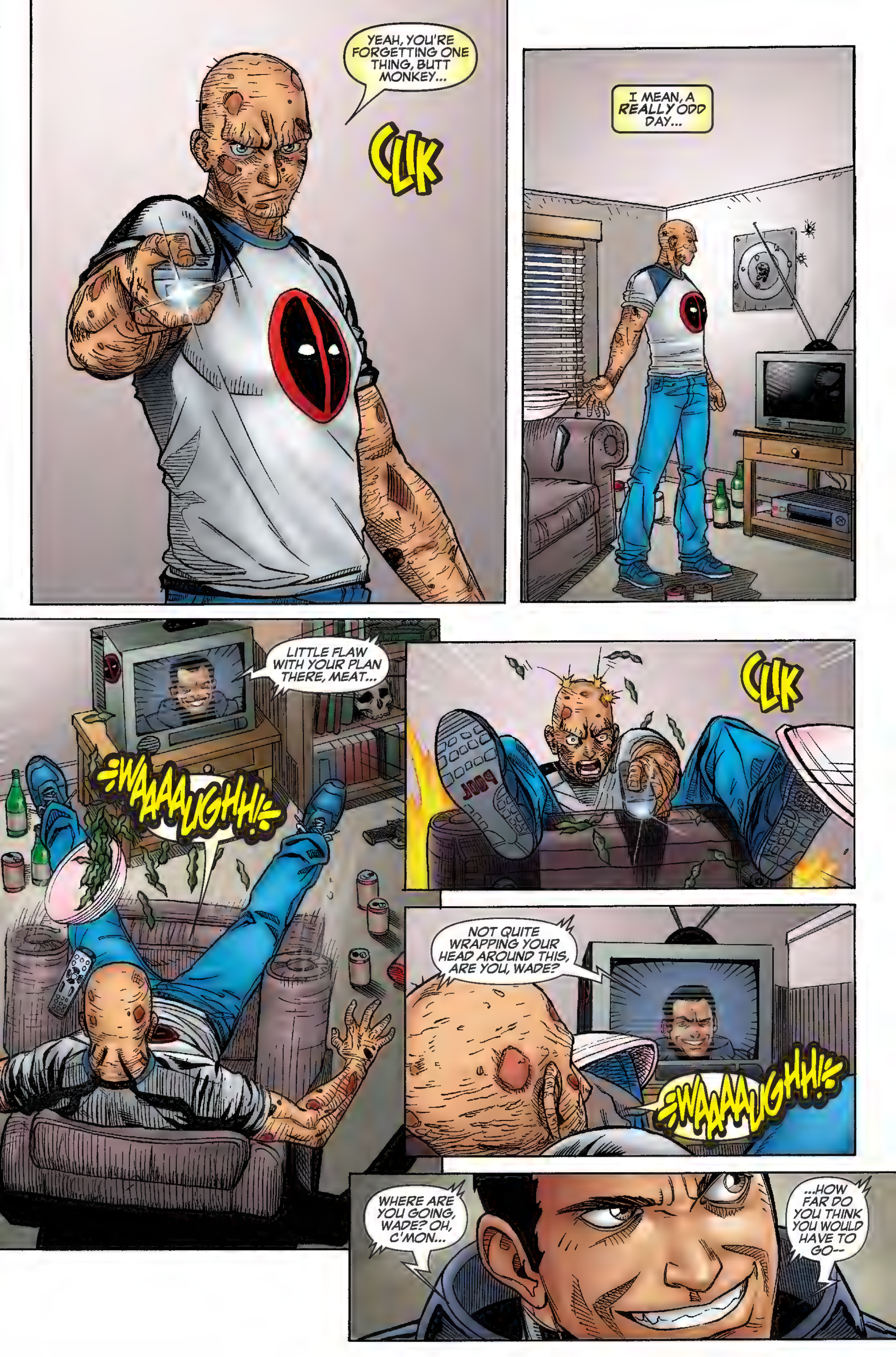

WELCOME BACK TO THE SHOW! I'M WADE WILSON, THE MERC WITH A MOUTH REVILED FAR AND WIDE AS DEADPOOL. SO...
...WHAT'S NEW BY YOU? ME, OH, NOT MUCH... LES'SEE...
...I WAS HUMILIATED ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL BY MY FORMER BUDDY AND WOULD-BE WORLD SAVIOR, CABLE.
Nite-Time
BUT MEN IN PIN-STRIPED SUITS WANTED CABLE EMBARRASSED, SO I GOT HIRED ON WITH THE MERC GROUP HIRED TO EMBARRASS HIM: THE SIX PACK.
I BLEW UP A POWER PLANT IN CABLE'S GRANOLA-CRUNCHING ISLAND HAVEN, PROVIDENCE. JUST A DISTRACTION TO DRAW HIM AWAY...
...FROM RUMEKISTAN, WHERE CABLE IS THE CURRENT PREZ, SO THAT THE SIX PACK COULD CRASH THE POWER GRID IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF BARJNOV.
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
HUH? DON'T APPLAUD. WE SCREWED THE JOB UP. CABLE STOPPED US! MADE US LOOK LIKE BABOONS! KEPT HIS GIRL-TOY DOMINO, TOO.
THEY'RE NOT APPLAUDING YOU.
OH? OH. CRAP. WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU TOLD THE STORY RIGHT. SO FAR, SO GOOD.
DROP DEAD, YOU MOOK.
YOU FORGOT TO MENTION ONE THING.
WHAT?
THE SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE I IMPLANTED INTO YOUR MIND TO MAKE YOU REGRET YOUR ACTIONS.
WHAT SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE?
THIS ONE...

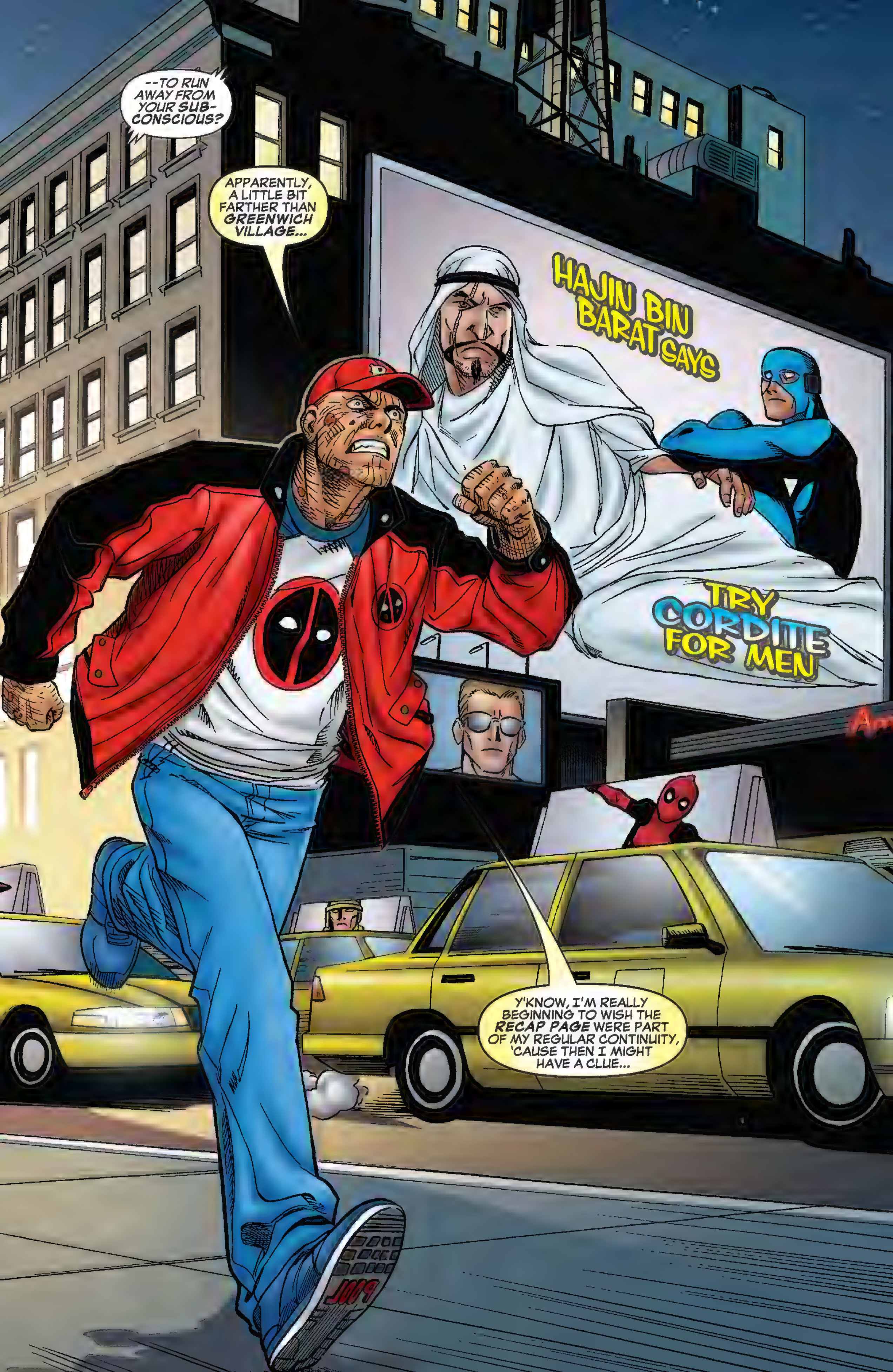

TIMES SQUARE. MANHATTAN.
WELL, THIS SEEMS ODD. HEY BUDDY, YOU SEE THAT?
SEE WHAT?
EVERY SIGN HAS MAKESHIFT AND RIVE ON THEM. THEY'RE TWO FREE-LANCE MERCS I KIL-- UHM...DISPOSED OF...
IN SELF-DEFENSE.
PRETTY MUCH. WELL, THE FIRST THIRTY-TWO TIMES, ANYWAY. UHM...LONG STORY. INVOLVED CLONES. AND ENTRAILS. GEEZ, LOTS OF ENTRAILS...
PALACE
WICKED
99

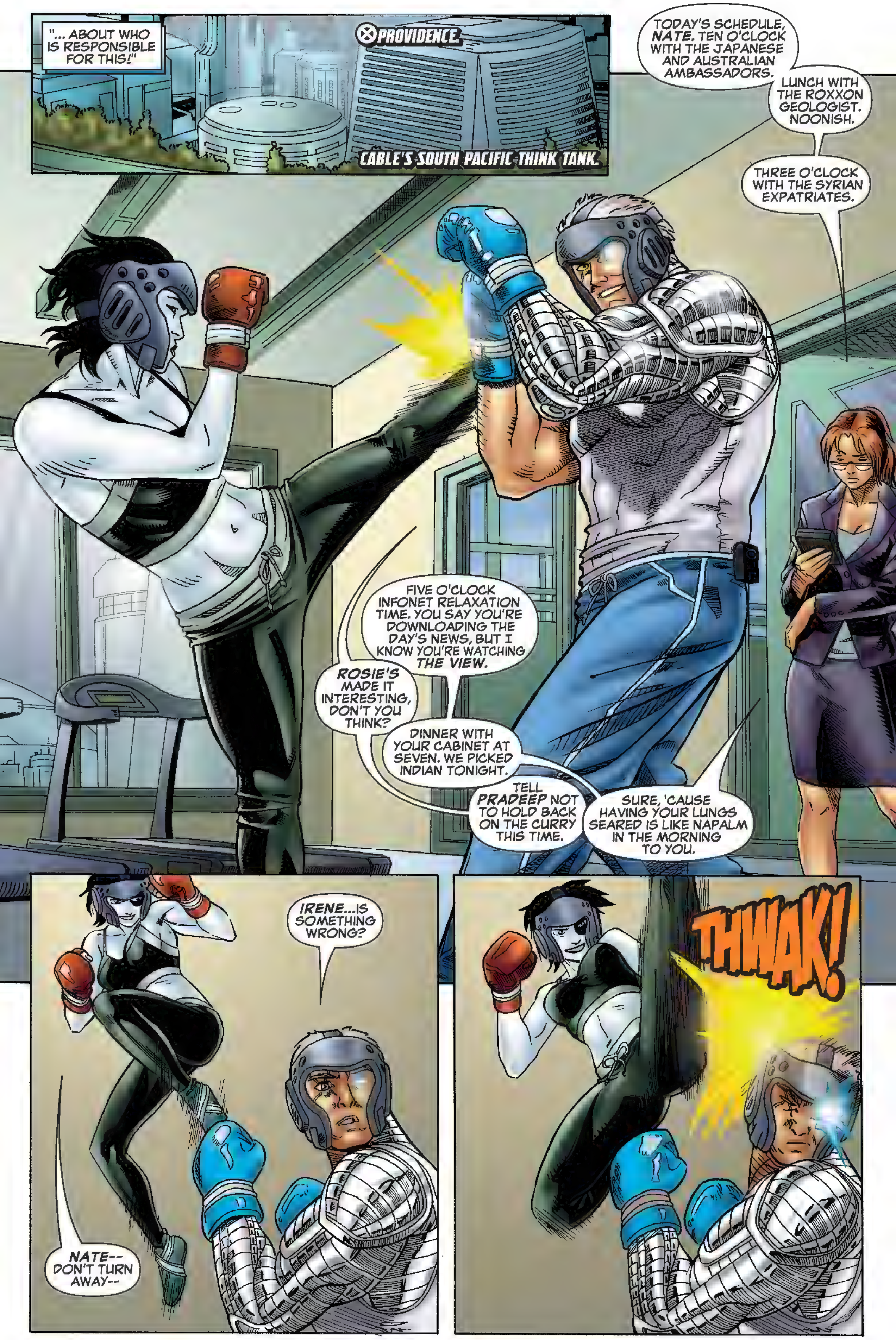

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NEVER MIND.
THAT WAS ODD, HUH?
TIAMAT WILL SLAY THE MITHRAS!
Games!
?
DIE, MITHRAS, DIE!
THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR...
DID THEY MAKE A DEADPOOL VIDEO GAME AND FORGET TO PAY ME ROYALTIES?
BEEN AN ODD DAY SO FAR, DON'T YOU THINK?
OH WELL, TIME FOR A FALAFEL!

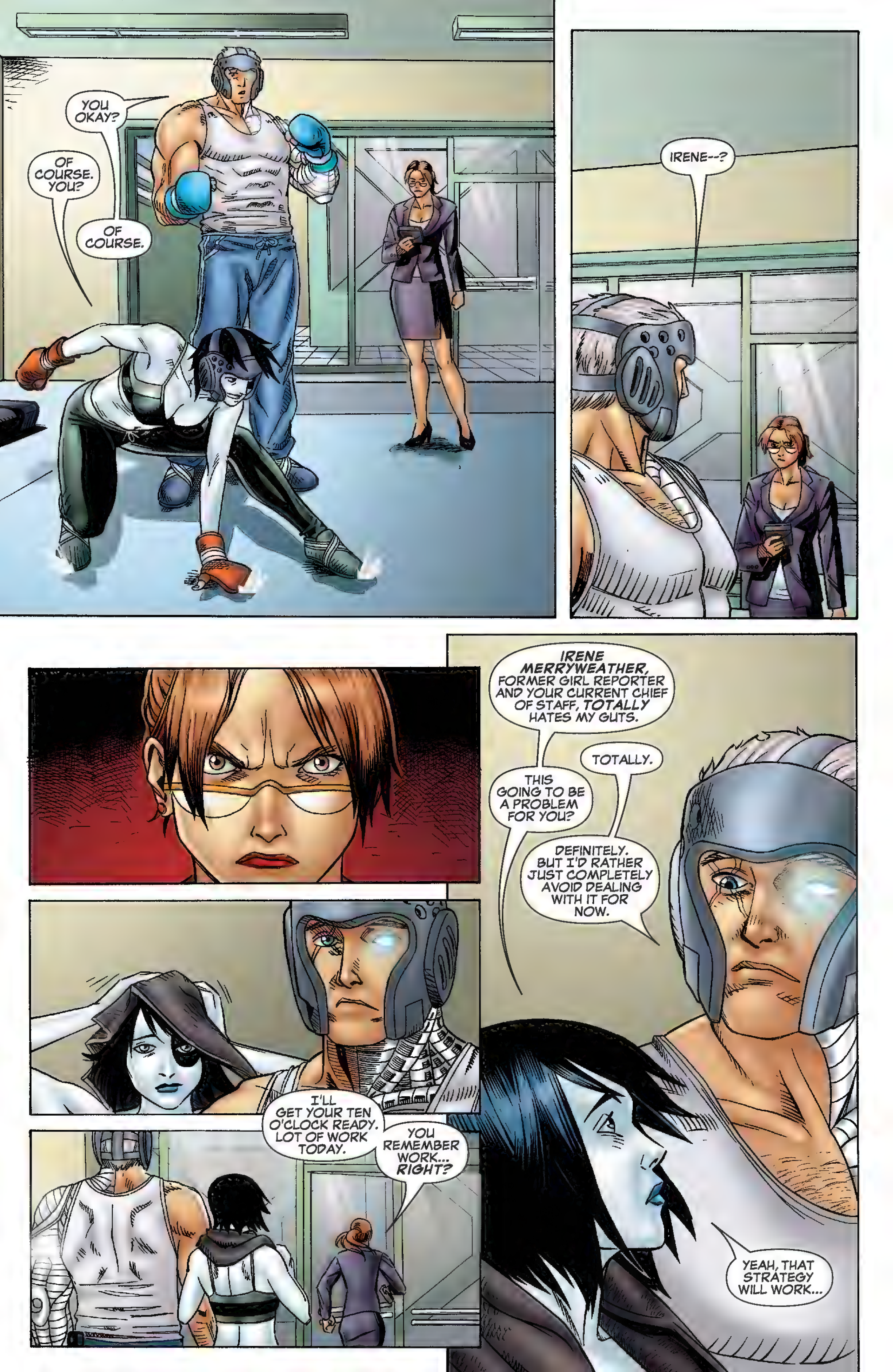

Falafel Hut
Falafel Hut
DVD PALACE
SPICY ENOUGH TO SHRIVEL MY BOYS, DEEPAK, MY MAN!
WHO HAVE YOU KILLED TODAY?
SO...
...WHAT DOES A MERC FOR HIRE, ASSASSIN, THIEF AN' THUG DO...
...WHEN HE CAN'T GET A JOB TO SAVE HIS LIFE...?
POINTY ENOUGH TO PERFORATE MY BOYS, NICKY, MY GIRL!
WILEY WORLD o' TOYS
VIDEOS BOOKS LEATHER LATEX
--AND NOW BACK TO OUR MAUDE MARATHON ON TV LAND.
APARTMENTS
TO BEA OR NOT TO BEA...

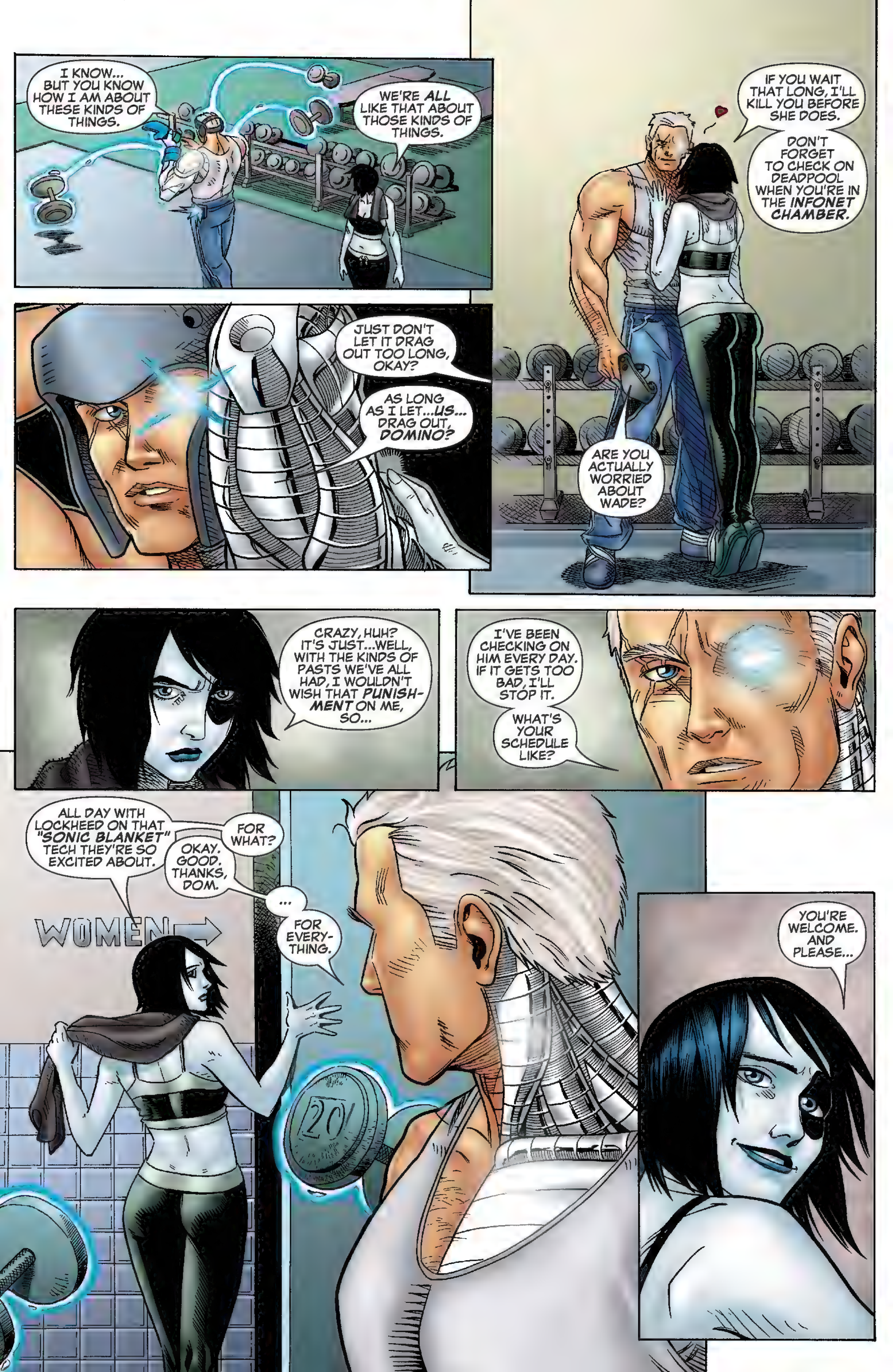

GRENADES
--AND THEN THERE'S MAUDE, AND THEN THERE'S MAUDE--
AND THEN THERE'S MAUDE-- I DON'T KNOW THE OTHER WORDS--
THAT OLD COMPROMISIN', ENTERPRISIN', ANYTHING BUT TRANQUILIZING, RIGHT ON MAUDE.
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, THANKS, AJAX.
AJAX?!
FRANCIS, YOU OLD SO-AND-SO. WHAT'RE YOU DOING ON MY TV--
HAUNTING YOU.
COOL. YOU DO REALIZE, IF YOU WEREN'T DEAD ALREADY, I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU AGAIN FOR INTERRUPTING MY BELOVED BEA!
YEAH, LOOK AT ME, RATHER SCARED.
I DO ADMIT, WADE, NOT HAVING KILLED YOUR UGLY SELF A LONG TIME AGO WAS QUITE THE DISAPPOINTMENT--
--ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU MADE THINGS SO ROUGH ON ME AT THE WEAPON X FACILITY WHERE YOU GOT YOUR LITTLE HEALING FACTOR--
YEAH, ALWAYS MEANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTING YOUR PHYSICAL AN' PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE OF ALL THE PATIENTS THERE.
BUT NOW... THE THOUGHT OF GETTING TO HAUNT YOU FOREVER--
--IT PRACTICALLY MAKES HAVING BEEN KILLED BY YOU WORTH IT!

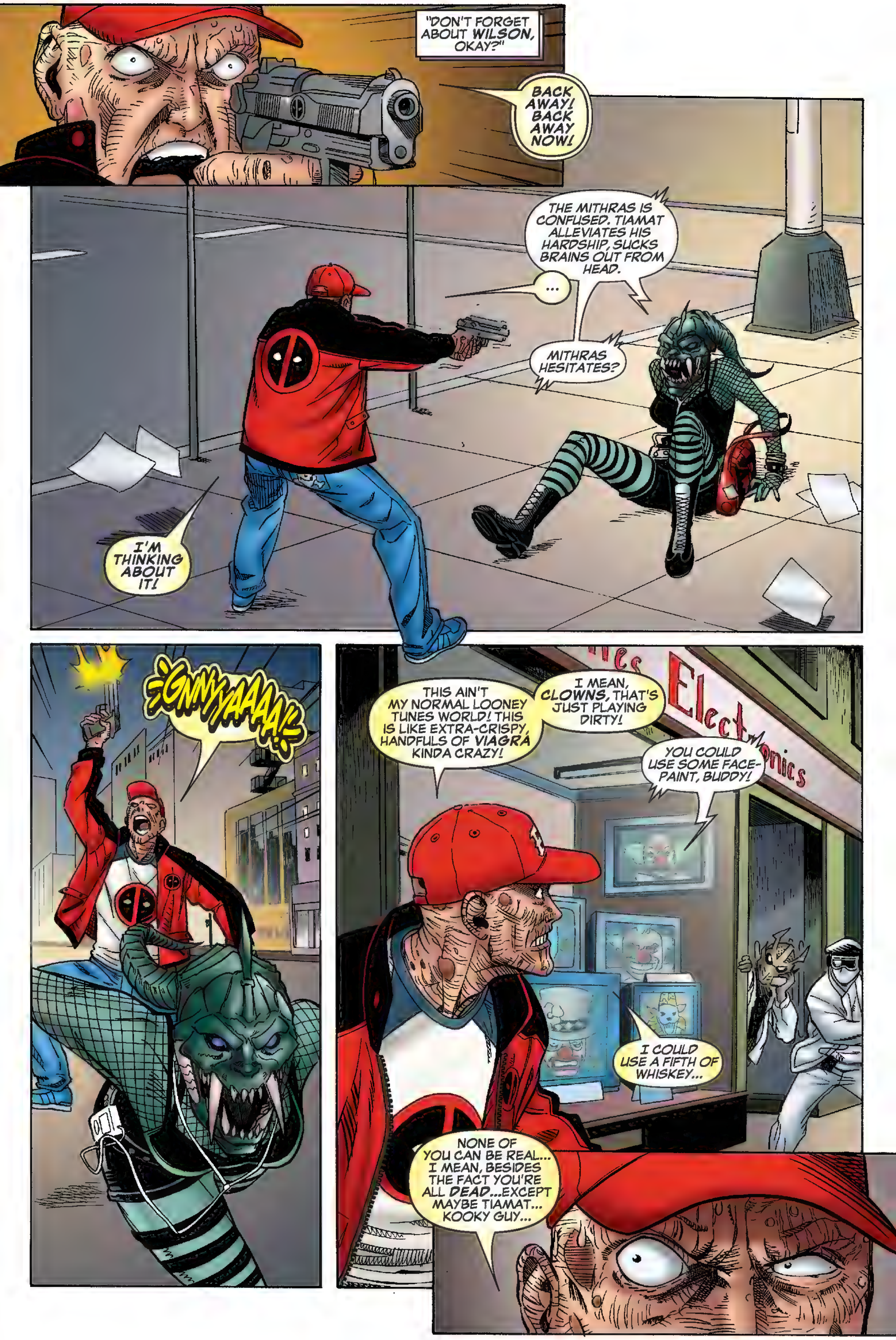

YEAH, YOU'RE FORGETTING ONE THING, BUTT MONKEY...
CLIK
I MEAN, A *REALLY* ODD DAY...
LITTLE FLAW WITH YOUR PLAN THERE, MEAT...
WAAAAUGHH!
CLIK
POOL
NOT QUITE WRAPPING YOUR HEAD AROUND THIS, ARE YOU, WADE?
WAAAAUGHH!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, WADE? OH, C'MON...
...HOW FAR DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO--

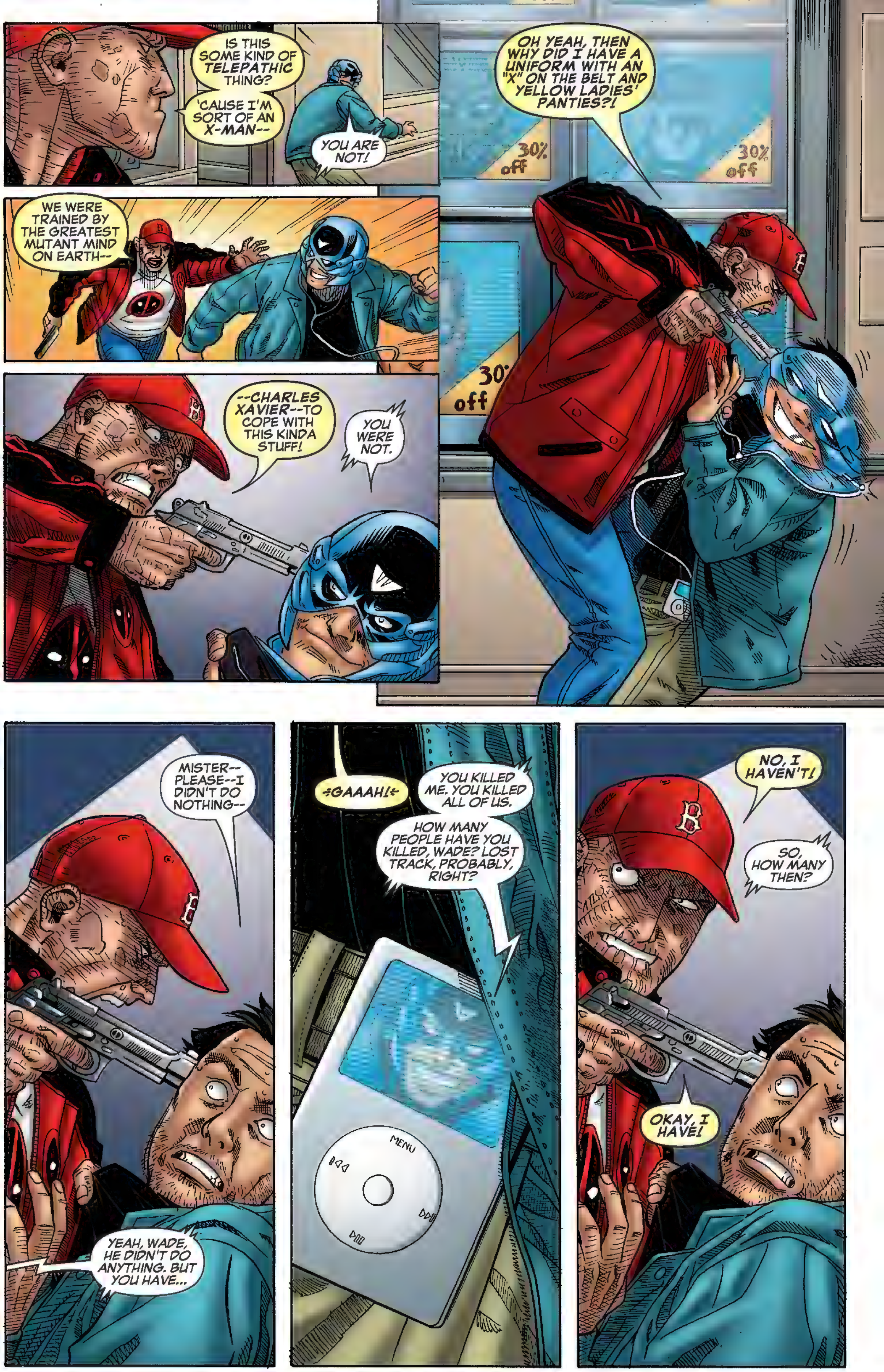

--TO RUN AWAY FROM YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS?
APPARENTLY, A LITTLE BIT FARTHER THAN *GREENWICH VILLAGE*...
HAJIN BIN BARAT SAYS
TRY CORDITE FOR MEN
Y'KNOW, I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO WISH THE *RECAP PAGE* WERE PART OF MY REGULAR CONTINUITY, 'CAUSE THEN I MIGHT HAVE A CLUE...

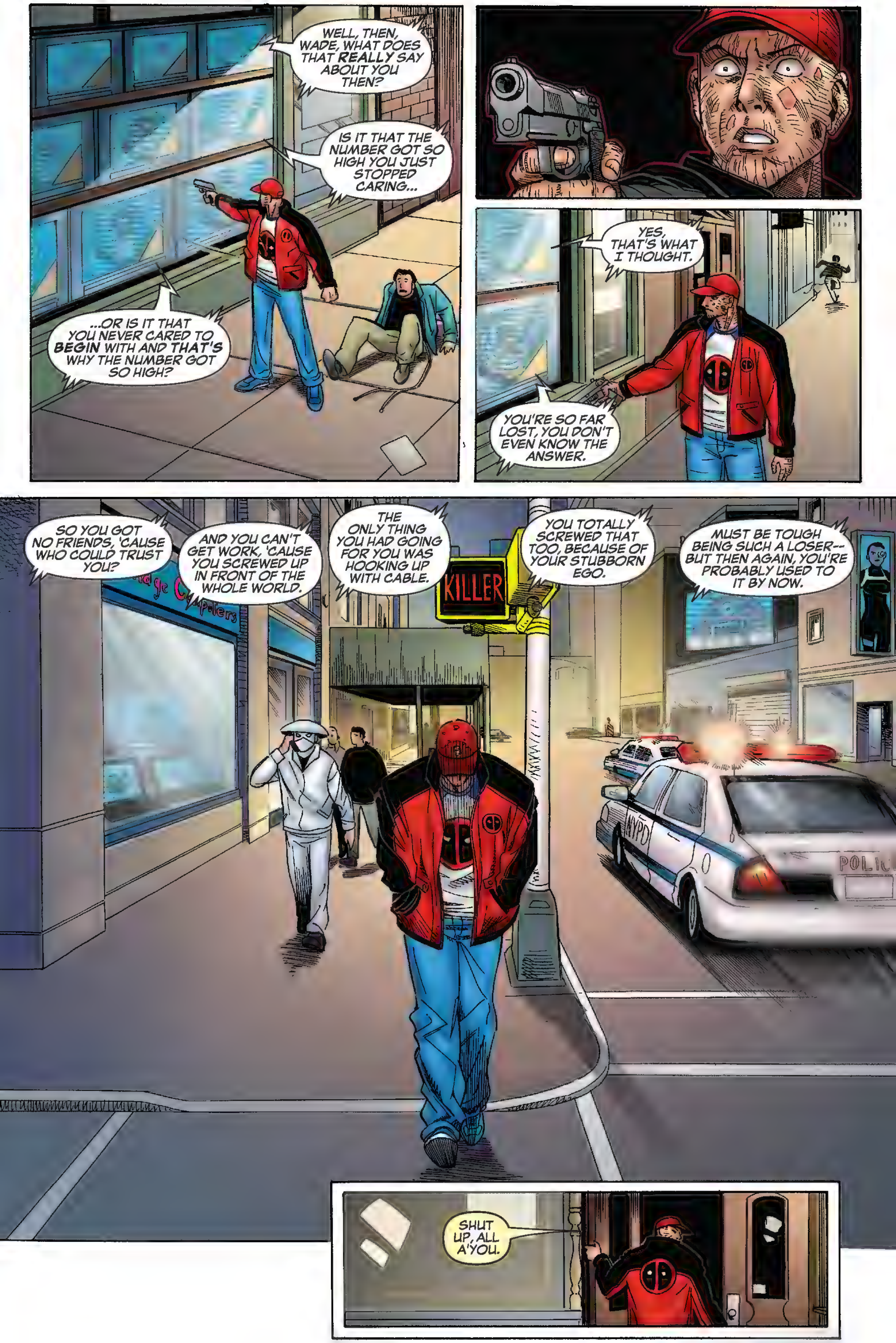

"...ABOUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!"
PROVIDENCE.
CABLE'S SOUTH PACIFIC THINK TANK.
TODAY'S SCHEDULE, NATE. TEN O'CLOCK WITH THE JAPANESE AND AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS.
LUNCH WITH THE ROXXON GEOLOGIST. NOONISH.
THREE O'CLOCK WITH THE SYRIAN EXPATRIATES.
FIVE O'CLOCK INFONET RELAXATION TIME. YOU SAY YOU'RE DOWNLOADING THE DAY'S NEWS, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING THE VIEW.
ROSIE'S MADE IT INTERESTING, DON'T YOU THINK?
DINNER WITH YOUR CABINET AT SEVEN. WE PICKED INDIAN TONIGHT.
TELL PRADEEP NOT TO HOLD BACK ON THE CURRY THIS TIME.
SURE, 'CAUSE HAVING YOUR LUNGS SEARED IS LIKE NAPALM IN THE MORNING TO YOU.
IRENE...IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NATE-- DON'T TURN AWAY--
THWAK!

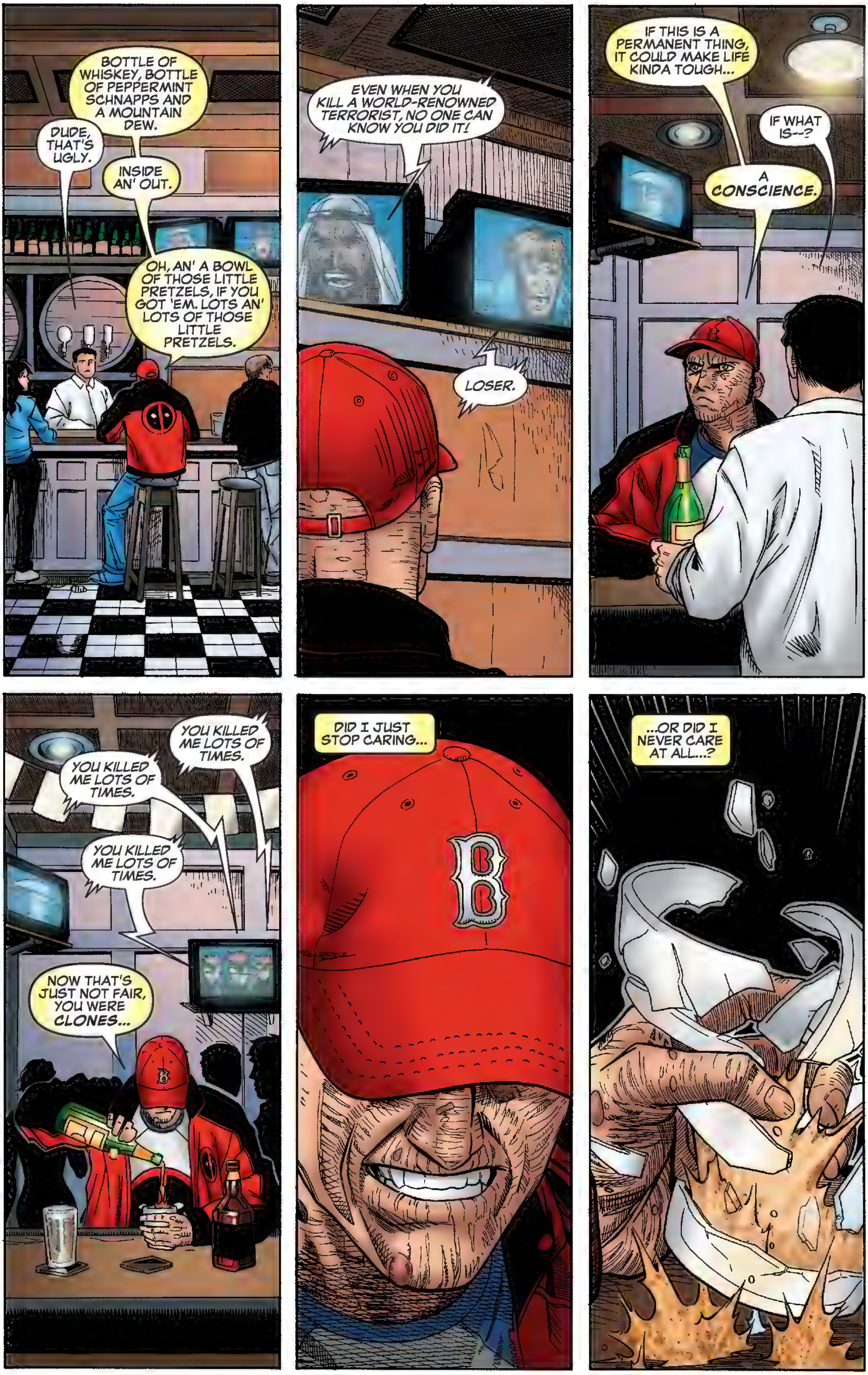

YOU OKAY?
OF COURSE. YOU?
OF COURSE.
IRENE--?
IRENE MERRYWEATHER, FORMER GIRL REPORTER AND YOUR CURRENT CHIEF OF STAFF, ***TOTALLY*** HATES MY GUTS.
TOTALLY.
THIS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU?
DEFINITELY. BUT I'D RATHER JUST COMPLETELY AVOID DEALING WITH IT FOR NOW.
I'LL GET YOUR TEN O'CLOCK READY. LOT OF WORK TODAY.
YOU REMEMBER WORK... ***RIGHT?***
YEAH, THAT STRATEGY WILL WORK...

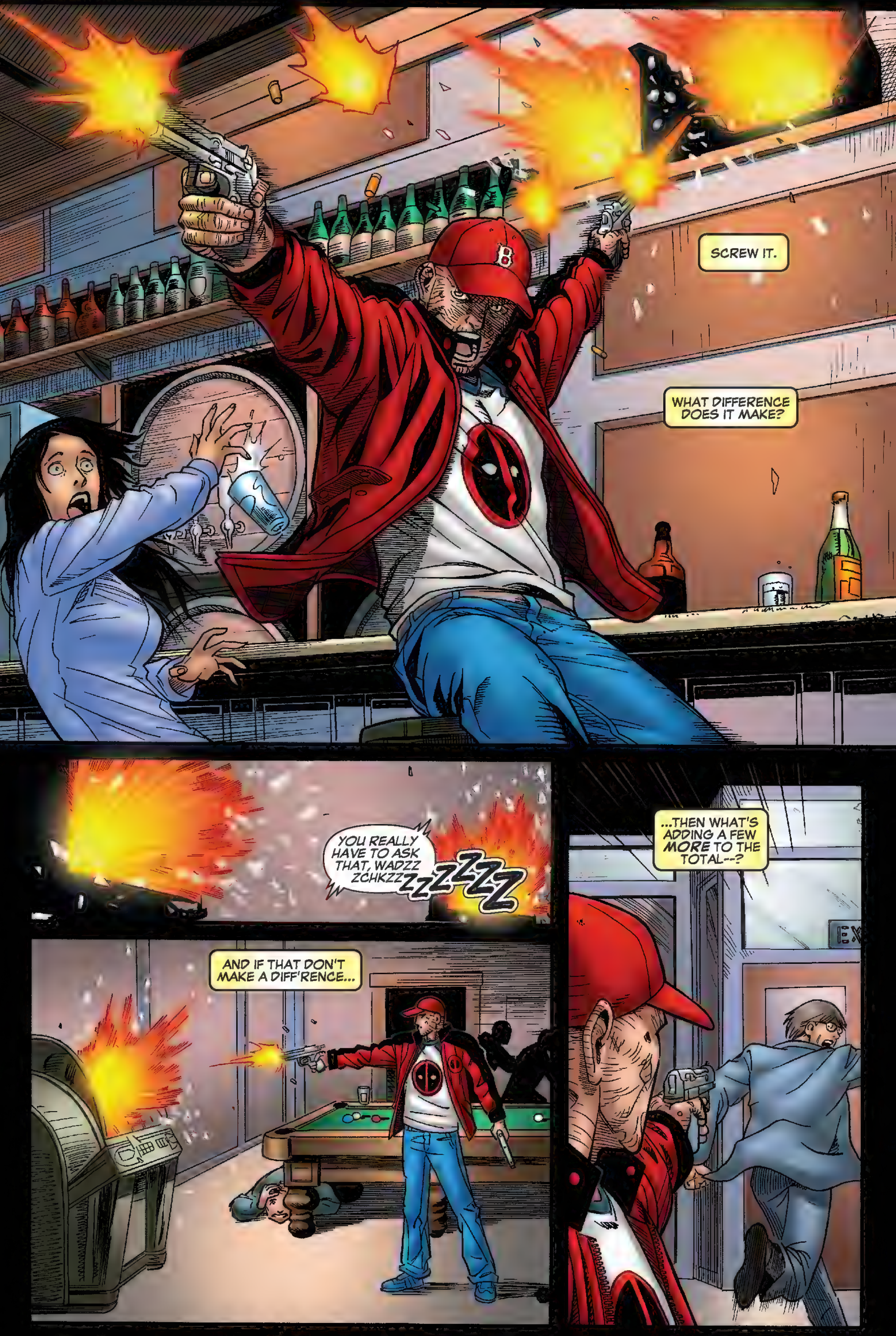

I KNOW... BUT YOU KNOW HOW I AM ABOUT THESE KINDS OF THINGS.
WE'RE *ALL* LIKE THAT ABOUT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.
JUST DON'T LET IT DRAG OUT TOO LONG, OKAY?
AS LONG AS I LET...*US*... DRAG OUT, *DOMINO?*
IF YOU WAIT THAT LONG, I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE SHE DOES.
DON'T FORGET TO CHECK ON DEADPOOL WHEN YOU'RE IN THE *INFONET CHAMBER.*
ARE YOU ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT WADE?
CRAZY, HUH? IT'S JUST...WELL, WITH THE KINDS OF PASTS WE'VE ALL HAD, I WOULDN'T WISH THAT *PUNISHMENT* ON ME, SO...
I'VE BEEN CHECKING ON HIM EVERY DAY. IF IT GETS TOO BAD, I'LL STOP IT.
WHAT'S YOUR SCHEDULE LIKE?
ALL DAY WITH LOCKHEED ON THAT *"SONIC BLANKET"* TECH THEY'RE SO EXCITED ABOUT.
FOR WHAT?
OKAY. GOOD. THANKS, DOM.
...
FOR EVERYTHING.
WOMEN
20
YOU'RE WELCOME. AND PLEASE...

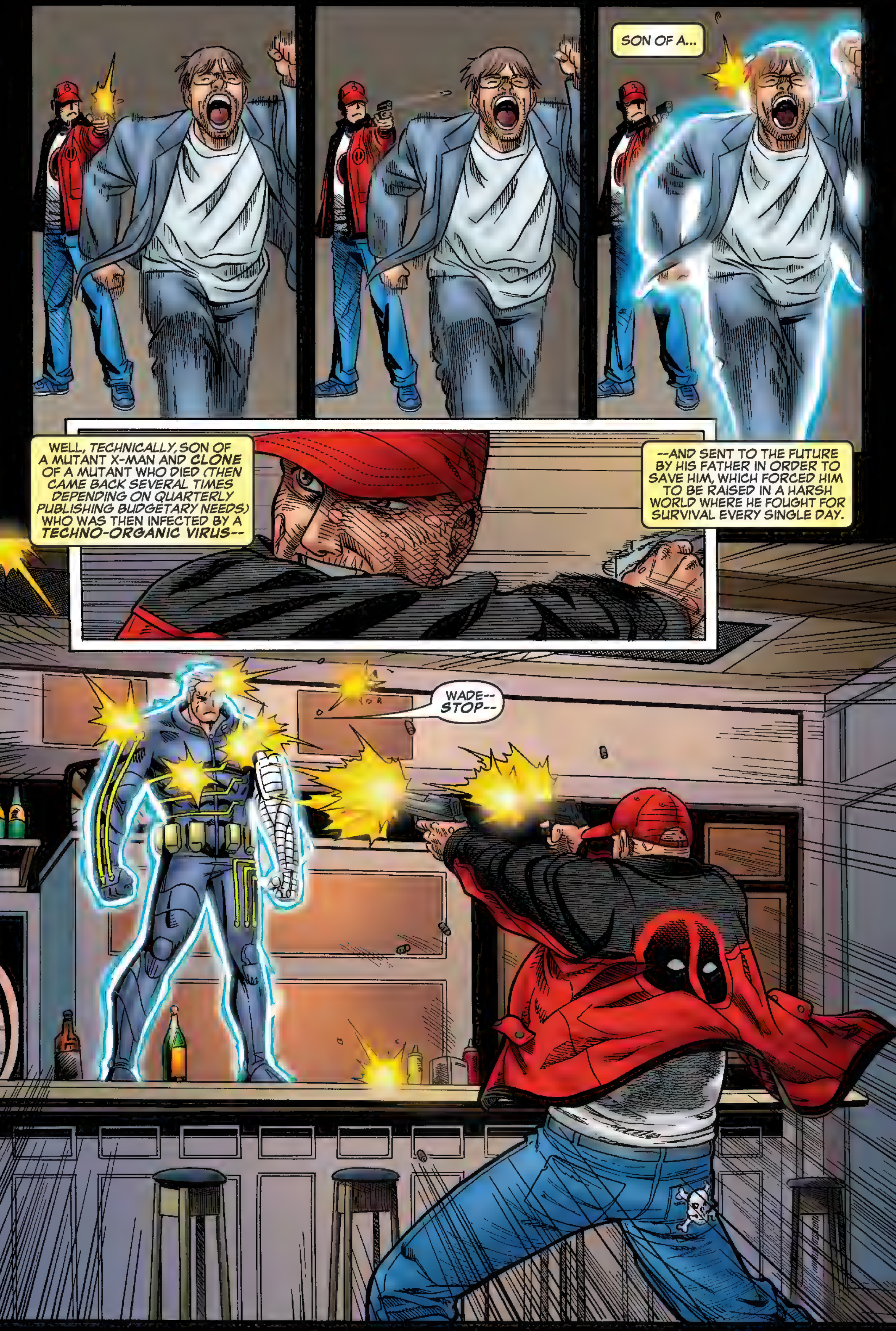

"DON'T FORGET ABOUT **WILSON**, OKAY?"
BACK AWAY! BACK AWAY NOW!
THE MITHRAS IS CONFUSED. TIAMAT ALLEVIATES HIS HARDSHIP, SUCKS BRAINS OUT FROM HEAD.
...
MITHRAS HESITATES?
I'M THINKING ABOUT IT!
GNNYAAAA!
THIS AIN'T MY NORMAL LOONEY TUNES WORLD! THIS IS LIKE EXTRA-CRISPY, HANDFULS OF **VIAGRA** KINDA CRAZY!
I MEAN, **CLOWNS**, THAT'S JUST PLAYING DIRTY!
Electronics
YOU COULD USE SOME FACE-PAINT, BUDDY!
I COULD USE A FIFTH OF WHISKEY...
NONE OF YOU CAN BE REAL... I MEAN, BESIDES THE FACT YOU'RE ALL **DEAD**...EXCEPT MAYBE TIAMAT... KOOKY GUY...

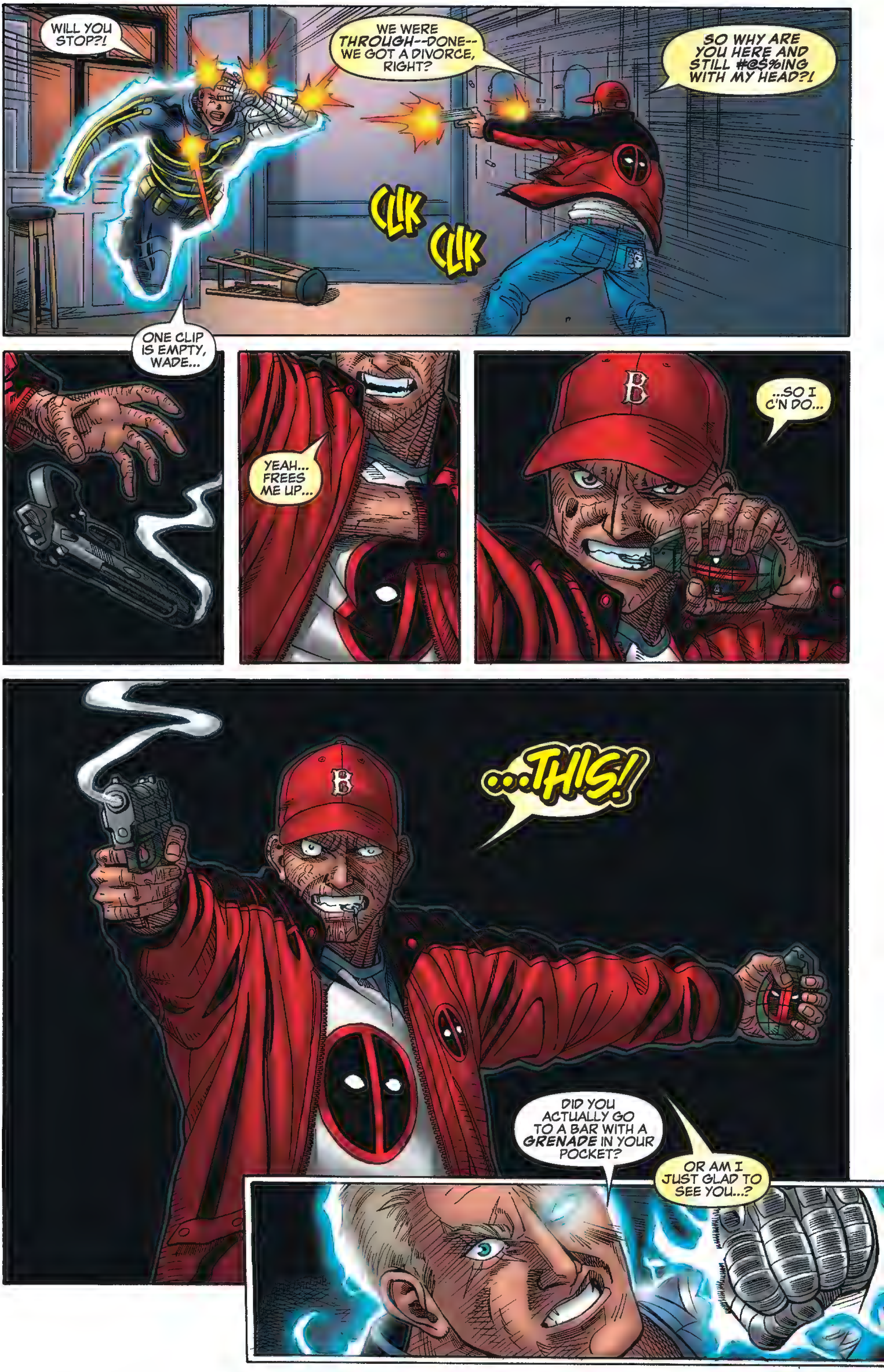

IS THIS SOME KIND OF TELEPATHIC THING?
'CAUSE I'M SORT OF AN X-MAN--
YOU ARE NOT!
WE WERE TRAINED BY THE GREATEST MUTANT MIND ON EARTH--
--CHARLES XAVIER--TO COPE WITH THIS KINDA STUFF!
YOU WERE NOT.
OH YEAH, THEN WHY DID I HAVE A UNIFORM WITH AN "X" ON THE BELT AND YELLOW LADIES' PANTIES?!
30% off
30% off
30% off
MISTER--PLEASE--I DIDN'T DO NOTHING--
YEAH, WADE, HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. BUT YOU HAVE...
GAAAH!
YOU KILLED ME. YOU KILLED ALL OF US.
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU KILLED, WADE? LOST TRACK, PROBABLY, RIGHT?
MENU
NO, I HAVEN'T!
SO, HOW MANY THEN?
OKAY, I HAVE!

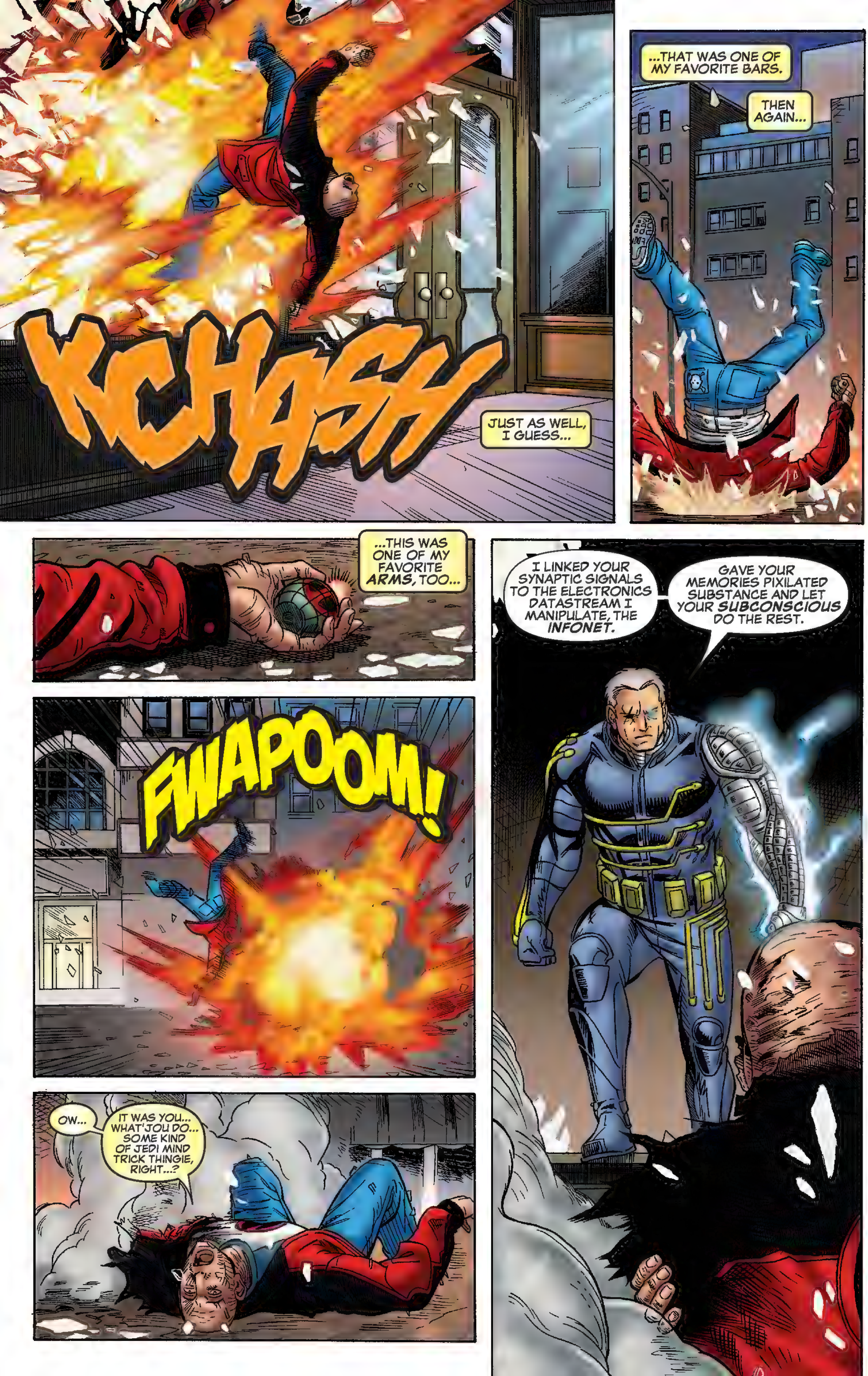

WELL, THEN, WADE, WHAT DOES THAT **REALLY** SAY ABOUT YOU THEN?
IS IT THAT THE NUMBER GOT SO HIGH YOU JUST STOPPED CARING...
...OR IS IT THAT YOU NEVER CARED TO **BEGIN** WITH AND **THAT'S** WHY THE NUMBER GOT SO HIGH?
YES, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
YOU'RE SO FAR LOST, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE ANSWER.
SO YOU GOT NO FRIENDS, 'CAUSE WHO COULD TRUST YOU?
AND YOU CAN'T GET WORK, 'CAUSE YOU SCREWED UP IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE WORLD.
THE ONLY THING YOU HAD GOING FOR YOU WAS HOOKING UP WITH CABLE.
KILLER
YOU TOTALLY SCREWED THAT TOO, BECAUSE OF YOUR STUBBORN EGO.
MUST BE TOUGH BEING SUCH A LOSER--BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU'RE PROBABLY USED TO IT BY NOW.
NYPD
POLIC
SHUT UP, ALL A'YOU.

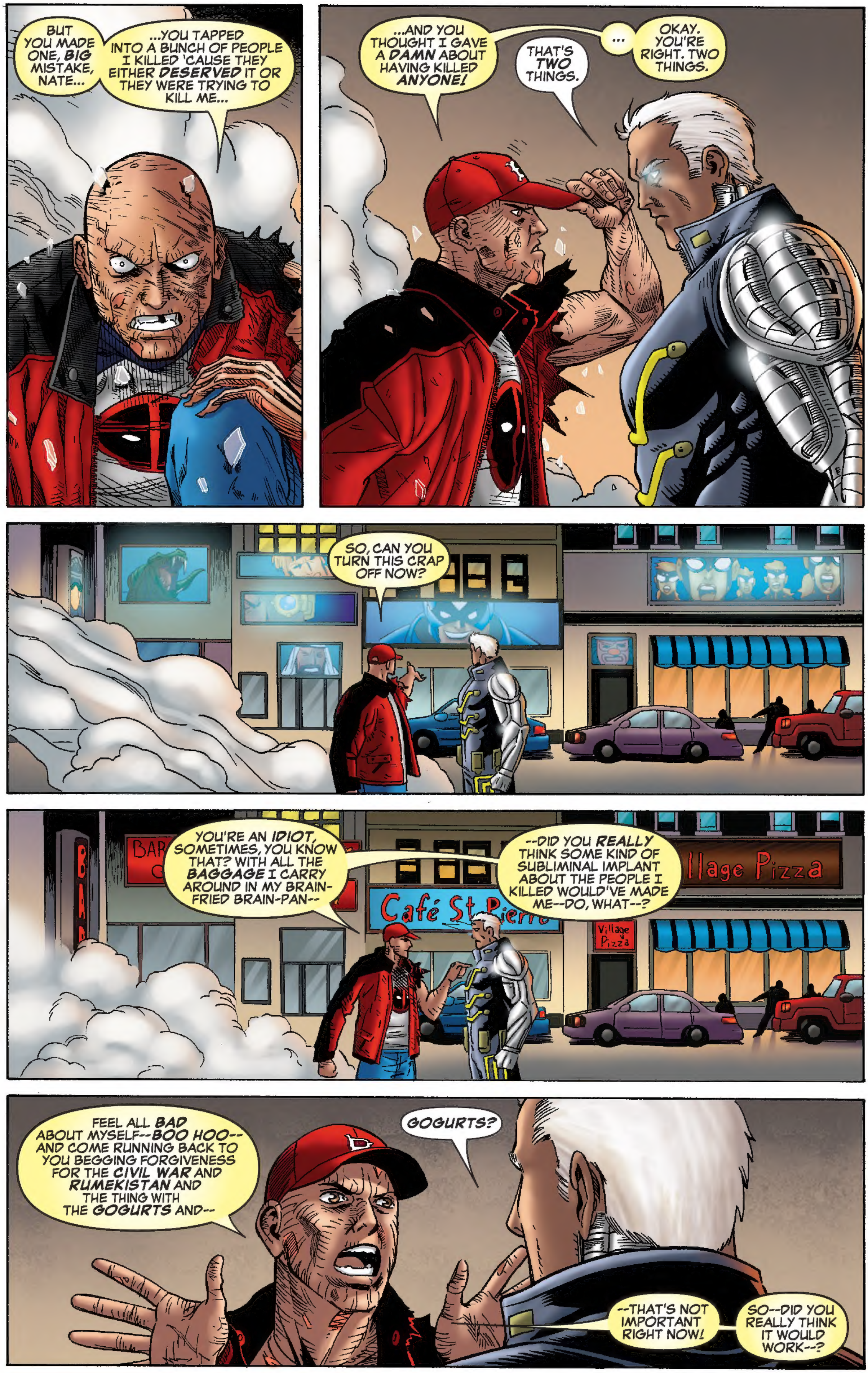

BOTTLE OF WHISKEY, BOTTLE OF PEPPERMINT SCHNAPPS AND A MOUNTAIN DEW.
DUDE, THAT'S UGLY.
INSIDE AN' OUT.
OH, AN' A BOWL OF THOSE LITTLE PRETZELS, IF YOU GOT 'EM. LOTS AN' LOTS OF THOSE LITTLE PRETZELS.
EVEN WHEN YOU KILL A WORLD-RENOWNED TERRORIST, NO ONE CAN KNOW YOU DID IT!
LOSER.
IF THIS IS A PERMANENT THING, IT COULD MAKE LIFE KINDA TOUGH...
IF WHAT IS--?
A CONSCIENCE.
YOU KILLED ME LOTS OF TIMES.
YOU KILLED ME LOTS OF TIMES.
YOU KILLED ME LOTS OF TIMES.
NOW THAT'S JUST NOT FAIR, YOU WERE CLONES...
DID I JUST STOP CARING...
...OR DID I NEVER CARE AT ALL...?

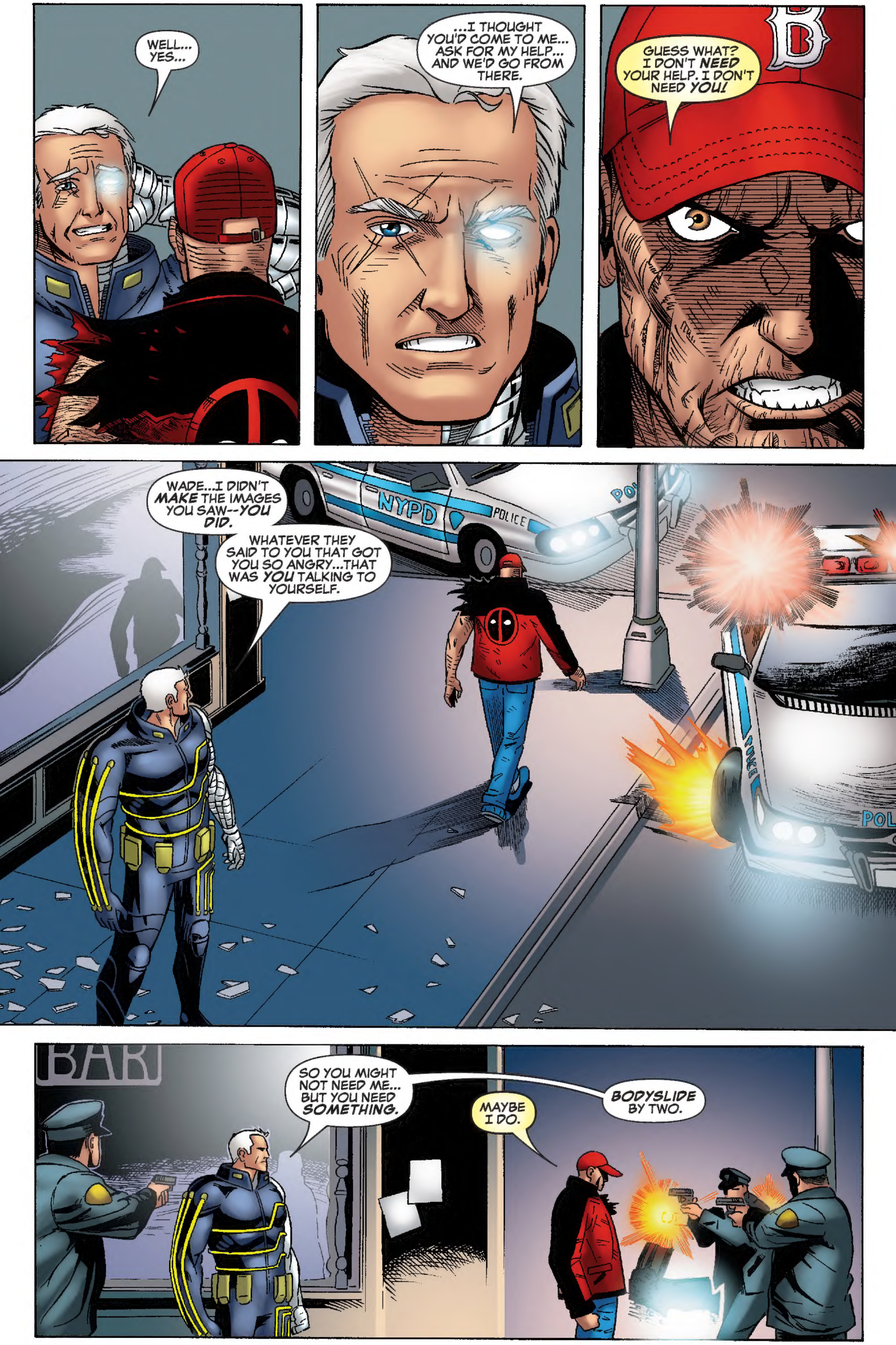

SCREW IT.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
YOU REALLY HAVE TO ASK THAT, WADZZ ZCHKZZZZZZZ
...THEN WHAT'S ADDING A FEW **MORE** TO THE TOTAL--?
AND IF THAT DON'T MAKE A DIFF'RENCE...
EX

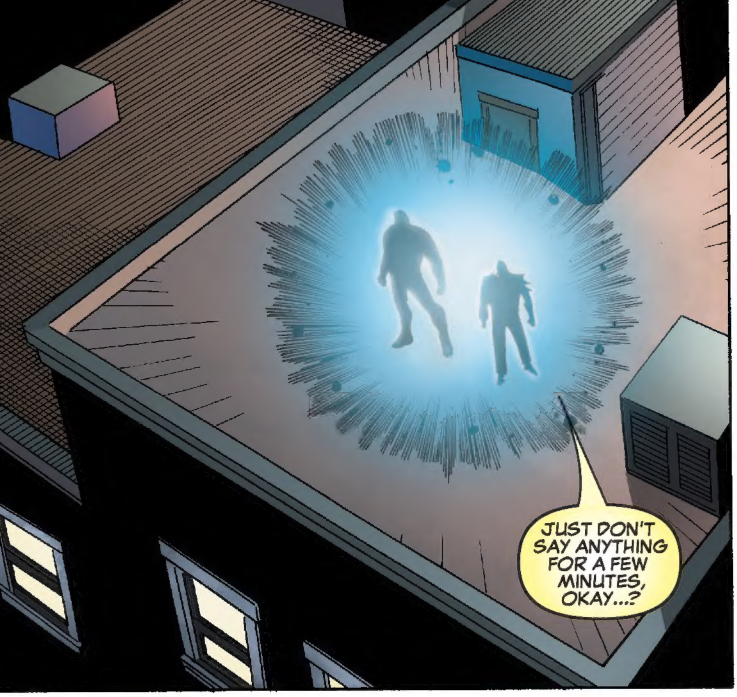

SON OF A...
WELL, TECHNICALLY, SON OF A MUTANT X-MAN AND CLONE OF A MUTANT WHO DIED (THEN CAME BACK SEVERAL TIMES DEPENDING ON QUARTERLY PUBLISHING BUDGETARY NEEDS) WHO WAS THEN INFECTED BY A TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS--
--AND SENT TO THE FUTURE BY HIS FATHER IN ORDER TO SAVE HIM, WHICH FORCED HIM TO BE RAISED IN A HARSH WORLD WHERE HE FOUGHT FOR SURVIVAL EVERY SINGLE DAY.
WADE-- STOP--

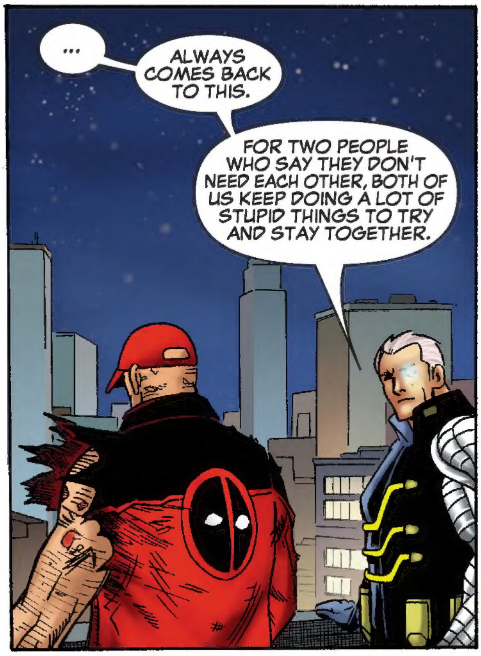

WILL YOU STOP?!
WE WERE THROUGH--DONE--WE GOT A DIVORCE, RIGHT?
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE AND STILL #@$%ING WITH MY HEAD?!
CLIK
CLIK
ONE CLIP IS EMPTY, WADE...
YEAH... FREES ME UP...
...SO I C'N DO...
...THIS!
DID YOU ACTUALLY GO TO A BAR WITH A GRENADE IN YOUR POCKET?
OR AM I JUST GLAD TO SEE YOU...?

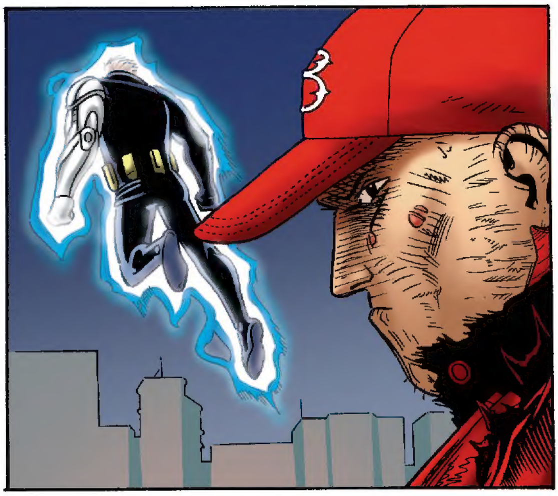

KCHASH
JUST AS WELL, I GUESS...
...THAT WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITE BARS.
THEN AGAIN...
...THIS WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITE ARMS, TOO...
FWAPOOM!
OW...
IT WAS YOU... WHAT'JOU DO... SOME KIND OF JEDI MIND TRICK THINGIE, RIGHT...?
I LINKED YOUR SYNAPTIC SIGNALS TO THE ELECTRONICS DATASTREAM I MANIPULATE, THE INFONET.
GAVE YOUR MEMORIES PIXILATED SUBSTANCE AND LET YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS DO THE REST.

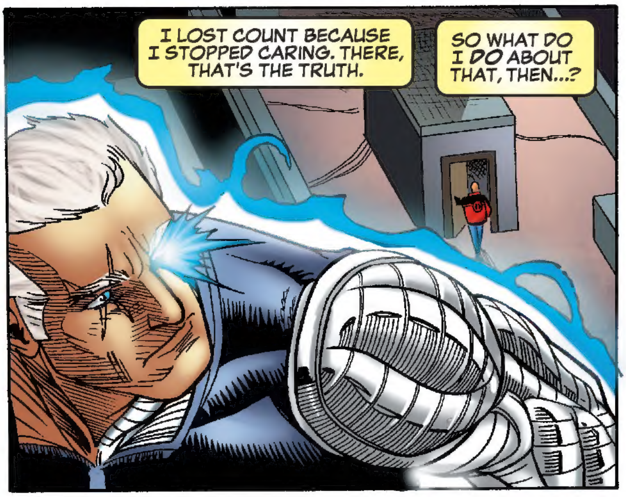

BUT YOU MADE ONE, BIG MISTAKE, NATE...
...YOU TAPPED INTO A BUNCH OF PEOPLE I KILLED 'CAUSE THEY EITHER DESERVED IT OR THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL ME...
...AND YOU THOUGHT I GAVE A DAMN ABOUT HAVING KILLED ANYONE!
THAT'S TWO THINGS.
...
OKAY. YOU'RE RIGHT. TWO THINGS.
SO, CAN YOU TURN THIS CRAP OFF NOW?
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW THAT? WITH ALL THE BAGGAGE I CARRY AROUND IN MY BRAIN-FRIED BRAIN-PAN--
--DID YOU REALLY THINK SOME KIND OF SUBLIMINAL IMPLANT ABOUT THE PEOPLE I KILLED WOULD'VE MADE ME--DO, WHAT--?
Café St Pierre
llage Pizza
Village Pizza
FEEL ALL BAD ABOUT MYSELF--BOO HOO--AND COME RUNNING BACK TO YOU BEGGING FORGIVENESS FOR THE CIVIL WAR AND RUMEKISTAN AND THE THING WITH THE GOGURTS AND--
GOGURTS?
--THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW!
SO--DID YOU REALLY THINK IT WOULD WORK--?

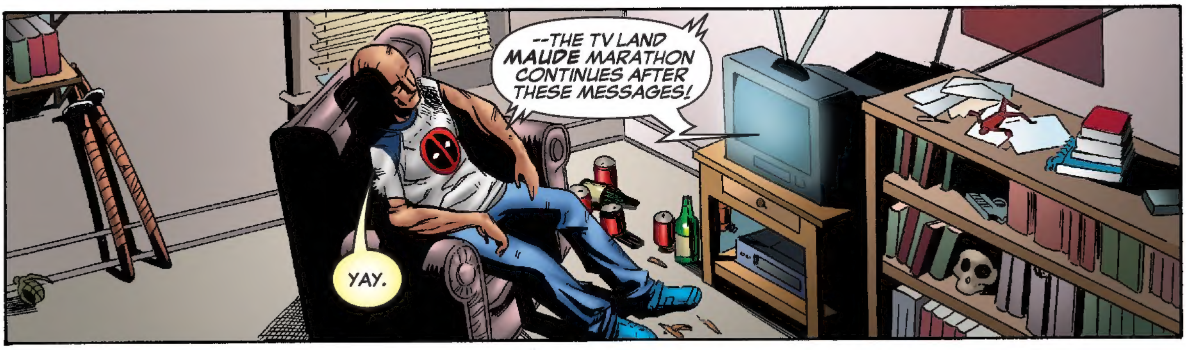

WELL... YES...
...I THOUGHT YOU'D COME TO ME... ASK FOR MY HELP... AND WE'D GO FROM THERE.
GUESS WHAT? I DON'T **NEED** YOUR HELP. I DON'T NEED ***YOU!***
NYPD
POLICE
WADE...I DIDN'T ***MAKE*** THE IMAGES YOU SAW--***YOU DID.***
WHATEVER THEY SAID TO YOU THAT GOT YOU SO ANGRY...THAT WAS ***YOU*** TALKING TO YOURSELF.
BAR
SO YOU MIGHT NOT NEED ME... BUT YOU NEED ***SOMETHING.***
MAYBE I DO.
BODYSLIDE BY TWO.

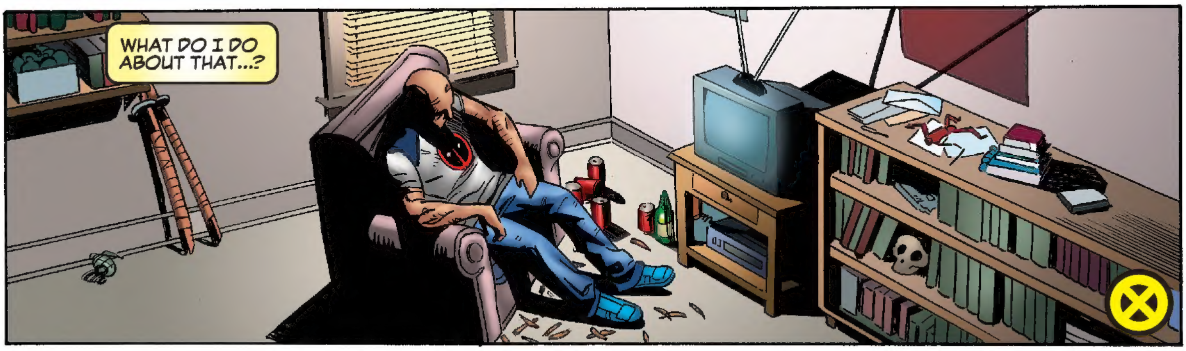

JUST DON'T SAY ANYTHING FOR A FEW MINUTES, OKAY...?


...
ALWAYS COMES BACK TO THIS.
FOR TWO PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY DON'T NEED EACH OTHER, BOTH OF US KEEP DOING A LOT OF STUPID THINGS TO TRY AND STAY TOGETHER.




I LOST COUNT BECAUSE I STOPPED CARING. THERE, THAT'S THE TRUTH.
SO WHAT DO I *DO* ABOUT THAT, THEN...?


--THE TV LAND *MAUDE* MARATHON CONTINUES AFTER THESE MESSAGES!
YAY.


WHAT DO I DO ABOUT THAT...?

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